

The Tech Issue

HIGH TIMES

November 442

Remote Control GROWING

Pot Apps for Stoners

Vapor Pens Tested and Rated

Perpetual Harvest

Ganja Gamer Tim Schafer

Conflict Pot Is There Blood on Your Bud?

AMSTERDAM

Cup Preview
See p.60



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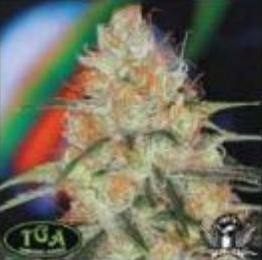
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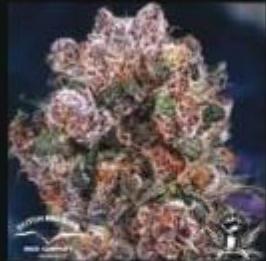
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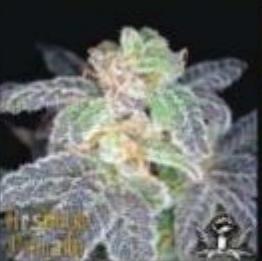
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-Endless Summer, page 76

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One of the most famous (and eccentric) minds in the video game industry talks about the history of this favorite stoner pastime—and hints at what's to come for the future.

By Tyler Stewart

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DIGITAL



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POT POLL

In our most recent web poll, we asked readers to choose among five top athletic performers who were also known for toking up. We were astounded that of the 525 votes cast, Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps received the most. As you may recall, Phelps was photographed taking a bong hit shortly after winning eight gold medals at the 2008 Summer Olympics. Maybe readers forgot how he apologized profusely for his "mistake." Frankly, he was no standup guy for cannabis and we'll bet that the dude hasn't touched pot since for fear of losing endorsements. But retired NFLer Ricky Williams, who always spoke favorably about pot, was a close second, losing to Phelps by just 52 votes.



- 1) Michael Phelps...38%**
- 2) Ricky Williams...28.2%**
- 3) Kareem Abdul-Jabbar...16.4%**
- 4) Bill Walton...9.7%**
- 5) Bill Lee...7.6%**



This month we're asking readers to vote which celebrity they'd most like to smoke a joint with. Go to hightimes.com/polls.



Jen Bernstein

[@nycjamgal](http://nycjamgal)
hightimes.com/nycjamgal

Check out Jen's latest jam adventure as she turns you on to what's happening in the music scene.



Bobby Black

[@BobbyBlack](http://BobbyBlack)
hightimes.com/bobbyblack

Tune in to an entertaining take on the day's top pot stories with Bobby's latest edition of "The Week in Weed," his popular new potcast.



Tyler Stewart

[@TylerHT](http://TylerHT)
hightimes.com/tokens

In this month's interview, we talk video games with one of the best in the business. Get an exclusive preview of Tim Schafer's next game in this extra feature. hightimes.com/happyactiontv

Laugh Your Grass Off

It's no secret that cannabis can add a comic edge to life. Check out our archive of comedy sketches featuring historic events and contemporary stoner high-jinks. hightimes.com/tags/laugh_your_grass_off



Miss November 2012

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Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

Pot and the war of attrition.

People use the term “quagmire” when referring to a war wherein a powerful nation invades a smaller and supposedly weaker country, only to find that the weaker country is a lot tougher than the invaders originally anticipated. So the aggressor invests more money, more soldiers, more blood and then still finds itself in a war with no foreseeable conclusion. The word “quagmire” was used to describe the Vietnam War, and we certainly seem to be caught in a quagmire in Afghanistan. And I would say that the War on Marijuana has reached quagmire status as well.



High tech

This is an unusually eventful time in the Weed War (which the prohibitionists probably refer to as the War of Marijuana Aggression), and both sides are etching notches on their metaphorical gun barrels. Just to be able to say the Feds are now caught in a quagmire is an improvement over the situation in the 1980s and the pre-Prop. 215 '90s, when their side was rolling over us like a lawnmower.

But even as this issue went to press, we learned that we'd lost significant ground when it was announced that the city of Los Angeles had decided to close all of its approximately 750 medical marijuana dispensaries in one fell swoop. This news came on top of the continuing crackdown on medical pot throughout the so-called Golden State.

But marijuana marches into the future regardless. That's the whole point of our “Tech Issue”: Weed adapts. Read on as Nico Escondido takes you through the mechanics of setting up a computerized garden that can be controlled via smartphone from any location where you can get a signal. And remember when vaporizers were all the size (and weight) of bowling balls? The new rage these days is pocket-sized vapor pens, which Bobby Black field tests and breaks down for the discerning consumer. And whether you're looking for the perfect bud, need answers to your grow questions, or just want to know your rights as a cannabis consumer, Mike Hughes demonstrates that savvy stoners have managed to create an app for that. Finally, just in case you forgot about the dark side of prohibition, Bill Weinberg's “Blood Ganja”—which examines the organizations that use the illicit marijuana trade to enrich themselves and pursue their less-than-righteous agendas—should remind you.

So while marijuana took a beating this past month, we look forward to November, when the states of Colorado, Washington and Oregon vote for complete legalization. The polls are looking pretty good, but even if that doesn't pan out, we'll just continue the war of attrition. This is where the quagmire thing works to our advantage, since the victor in any quagmire is the one with time on their side. And that would be us.

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Editor-In-Chief

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Green Empowerment

This is my first issue of *High Times*, so I apologize if I've overlooked any particular etiquette for writing this letter to you. What I really wanted to say was how empowered and emotional I felt after reading what others had to say in the magazine. I'm sure many people feel the same way when they read such pro-pot statements, because it relieves much of this veil of shame we seem to meander about in.

It's not even just that, though. Thanks to marijuana, those who are sick are finding happiness and comfort. Those who are anxious and stressed are finding relief and a good night's sleep—and for once it isn't at the price of a prescription drug's side effects. Why should anyone have to surrender their quality of life simply to relieve pain, especially when there's a far more natural and effective medicine available? I will never forget how pot gave me my relationship with my father back and allowed him to be comfortable and confident for the last year of his life. Thank you to the editors and everyone else at *High Times* for the support you give to the people. I will continue to buy your magazine and support the cause.

Courtney

Oliver Stoned

See what a difference a well-chosen celebrity makes! The Associated Press runs a whole article (syndicated in papers all over the country) mentioning who is on your cover and extensively following up on your interview therein.

I've been collecting every issue of *High Times* for more than 24 years (I still have them all) and have always advised *HT* to straighten up and fly right: "Traditional Americana" is what should be on every cover, with special deference given to credible celebrities.

Matt

The Dude Abides

What's up, *High Times*? I read your mag all the time. In fact, I'm reading it right now, which leads me to ask you guys this question: Can you show my boy Devin the Dude some love? I see a lot of other artists like Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa appearing in your issues, and I was just wondering if you could put Devin the Dude in there as well—because, judging by his music, he seems like *High Times* material and pretty damn cool. Thanks!

Relldapizzaman

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High Times November 2012

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Love your magazine, but please cover legal industrial hemp as well as the *sativas*.

Tom

Busted at Disneyland

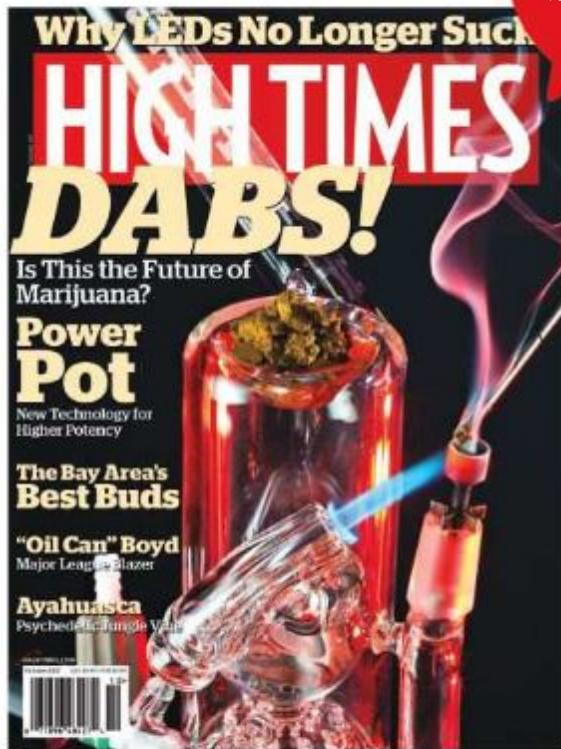
My name is Greg, and I was just terminated by the Disneyland resort for being under the influence while at work, even though I was not. I've been in the entertainment department for five years and recently became a lead and host trainer. I was one of the best, and this has been my dream since the age of 7. However, due to an injury at work, I started having chronic back spasms. I eventually tried using marijuana medicinally, and it worked better than anything else I've been given.

Then, on June 1, 2012, I woke up at about 8:15 a.m., brushed my teeth and went into work. I arrived at approximately 9 a.m.

for my 9:15 shift and started getting my costume together. I was a bit preoccupied, because it was nearing the two-year anniversary of a good friend and fellow entertainer who had passed away, and when I got to my area, a lead asked if I was feeling okay. I said I had a lot on my mind and was still waking up from a good night's sleep; then I mentioned how I had slept so well due to a pot brownie I had the night before. At this point, I was called in for a drug test. Of course, since it was a urine test, it came back positive for pot.

No matter what I told them—including the fact that I'd had the brownie the previous night and was *not* under the influence on the morning in question, something the test doesn't show—they refused to hear it. And so I lost my lifelong dream job of making people happy at Disneyland, despite the fact that I had done nothing wrong. I feel helpless and discriminated against, seeing as how there were certainly other tests that could have been used to prove my innocence. I don't know what to do, but this is one place I feel I can start to make my voice heard. Thank you.

Greg Larsen



Thanks to marijuana, those who are sick are finding happiness and comfort.

Devin's already our dude, Rell! We did an interview with him in the April '09 issue, and he also performed at the 23rd Annual *High Times* Cannabis Cup. Check him out in his new movie, *Highway 420*.

Hemp Kicks Gas

Just bought my first issue of *High Times*—the one with Oliver Stone on the cover. I'm not a big stoner; my issue is getting industrial hemp legalized in the US, just like it already is in 30 other countries (including Canada). David Bronner, the proprietor of Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, recently protested in DC by caging himself in front of the White House with hemp plants, and that certainly piqued my interest.

High Times should regularly feature hemp coverage in the magazine. Here are some hemp facts:

- Growing industrial hemp on just six percent of US land would meet 100 percent of our energy needs.
- Hemp produces 40 percent more ethanol than corn per acre.
- Hemp matures in as little as 100 days, so it's possible to harvest a crop three times a year.
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November 2012 **High Times**

CHAMPIONSHIP CHALICES Which pot strain rocked your world in 2012? With so many unique cannabis varieties to choose from, it's a tough but rewarding decision. Be sure to check out the December 2012 issue where we reveal the *High Times* Top 10 Strains of the Year. In the meantime, when you're done staring at these well-cured jars full of Black Shaman, vote for your favorite at hightimes.com/strainpoll. *Photo by Lochfoot*

15

Contact
High



GREENHOUSE MAGIC Combining the benefits of free outdoor sunshine with an indoor controlled and protected environment, this greenhouse emerges as the logical choice for cannabis farmers interested in maximizing yields while lowering their impact on our fragile environment. Keep reading about reducing your "ganja footprint" on page 78. *Photo by Lochfoot*





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Highwitness News

Roseanne lets loose on *The Late Show with David Letterman*.



Arts

Graffiti Star Passes On

Remembering Stay High 149 p.27



Food

Aunt Birdy's Ganja Cake

A highly delitable dessert for ganja get-togethers p.34



didn't know what to do with medical cannabis. So they turned to the federal government, and the Feds just said, 'Bust everything!'

Of course, the Feds were more than happy to go along with the opportunity for a crackdown. But now the Department of Justice is in serious denial about the whole issue. In June, US Attorney General Eric Holder told the House Judiciary Committee: "We limit our enforcement efforts to those individuals [and] organizations that are acting out of conformity with state law."

Really? Then why, that very same month, did the DEA raid the Sacramento area's El Camino Wellness Center—a prime example of a dispensary playing by the rules? Sacramento City Councilman Steve Cohn even wrote a letter to US Attorney Ben Wagner (representing the Eastern District) that praised El Camino Wellness for standing out with its "overall level of compassion and professionalism."

Medical marijuana lobbyist Max Del Real told the *Sacramento Bee* that El Camino Wellness was one of only four Sacramento dispensaries that had passed the city's strict protocols for official approval; in fact, it's a sanctioned non-profit with both the city and the state. As Del Real pointed out: "If the Feds can go after El Camino Wellness—guys that were doing it right—they can go after anyone."

And apparently that's just what they intend. US Attorney Melinda Haag has been the most high-handed of the four federal prosecutors in California: She refuses to disclose the number of dispensaries forced out of business in her jurisdiction, the Northern District, and she also constantly plays the clichéd "What about the kids?" card, insisting that dispensaries near schools must be closed down—regardless of the fact that liquor stores remain open on those very same blocks, and ignoring recent studies that suggest teens are *less* likely to smoke pot in states with legal medical marijuana.

DEA agents and local cops raid the Glendora Healing Center in May.



West Coast Crackdown

The federal government is waging a vicious war against the legal medical marijuana industry in California. *By Mark Miller*

Last fall, approximately 1,400 dispensaries were in operation in California. But that was before Black Friday—October 7, 2011. At a highly publicized press conference on that day, the four US Attorneys for California announced a joint crackdown on the medical-marijuana industry.

Since then, *The New York Times* reports, the number of medical marijuana dispensaries that have been shut down is somewhere between 500 and 650. Dan Rush of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union told the *Times* that almost half of all California dispensaries—650—have closed their doors since 2011. But while the federal

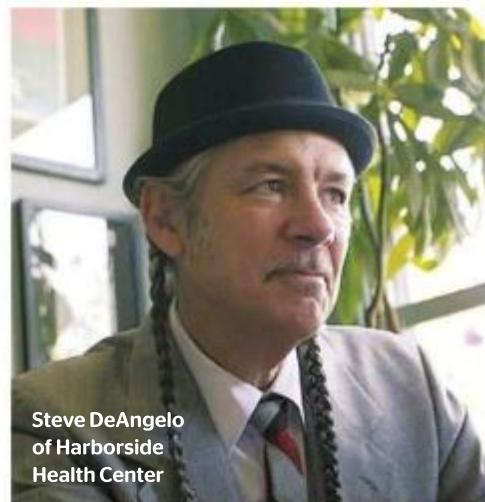
government has been roundly criticized for the raids—and for other heavy-handed tactics, such as threatening landlords with seizure of their property if they rent to a dispensary—it must be acknowledged that it was largely the *local* authorities who called upon the Feds to use the considerable resources at their disposal to take down the state's medical marijuana industry. Don Duncan, the California director of Americans for Safe Access (ASA), describes the mindset that led to the crackdown in the very state that started it all with the passage of Proposition 215 back in 1996: "Local officials, police and city councils

Contrary to popular belief, California is *not* one big liberal enclave. There are pockets of predominantly conservative counties throughout the state, especially outside of Northern Cali—places where local cops and elected officials view medical marijuana as a threat to their “decent communities.” Oakland and San Francisco, on the other hand, have largely resisted the crackdown, though the Oakland PD did participate in last April’s raid on Oaksterdam University.

Those days are over. In July, Harbor-side Health Center’s landlords were targeted by the DEA: Get rid of your tenant or lose your property.

Is there any hope that the Feds’ dispensary crackdown will end soon? That depends on who you ask. There’s been considerable speculation that, if he wins a second term, Obama plans to scale down the War on Drugs. The *Huffington Post* has reported that Obama wants to allow those convicted of drug offenses—including possession—to obtain financial aid for college. But ASA’s Duncan is cautiously optimistic at best: “We haven’t seen any sign from Obama’s camp that they’re planning anything different,” he says. “I hope it happens. But we’ll continue to see federal enforcement at least through the November presidential election. Activity [against dispensaries] will continue because local

‘We haven’t seen any sign from Obama’s camp that they’re planning anything different. I hope it happens. But we’ll continue to see federal enforcement at least through the November presidential election.’ —Don Duncan



officials still remain frustrated.”

But there’s been some actual good news as well. In early July, a California appellate court ruled that cities and counties could not legally ban dispensaries in their jurisdiction (Los Angeles County had been seeking to completely prohibit them in late July)—and while that’s unlikely to change federal policy, at least it should minimize the Feds’ ability to use local police and political

complaints against dispensaries as a justification for the raids.

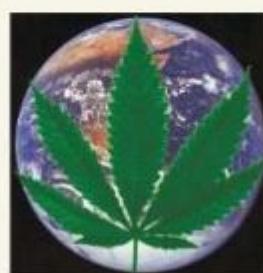
The closest comprehensive state-wide legislation to address the crisis was Assemblyman Tom Ammiano’s bill (AB 2312), which would have created a medical marijuana regulatory system overseen by a sanctioned state board. But Ammiano pulled the plug on the bill in June, convinced that it would die in the State Senate. For any new legislation along similar lines, he’s seeking to hold public hearings first and appoint a Senate subcommittee to conduct research.

Many industry observers expect some sort of regulatory bill to be introduced in the next legislative session in Sacramento. Others hope that Obama, who enjoyed smoking marijuana recreationally as a young man, develops a sense of compassion for the people using it medicinally and calls off the wolves—soon. Until then, the ongoing federal crackdown will leave California’s medical marijuana industry under siege and in a state of legal limbo, and the state’s pot patients increasingly wary of inhaling. ♣

HIGH FIVE

Canna-BS

Here are five oft-told mistruths about cannabis that must be laid to rest immediately! by Russ Belville



“Hemp will save the planet.”

Yes, it is an amazingly versatile plant—for food, fuel, fiber and medicine, but it will take a lot more than that. Incidentally, 31 countries already grow hemp. So does that mean America’s ban has doomed the planet? When there’s a hemp iPhone, hemp diamonds and a hemp cheeseburger that tastes like the real thing, maybe then will hemp be able to replace everything that harms the planet.



“Cannabis cures cancer.”

It’s been shown that THC kills cancer cells in Petri dishes, and many people swear that hemp oil cured their cancer. But keep in mind, cancer is a complex and varied group of diseases. Saying “Cannabis cures cancer” is premature. It’s like saying “Bread mold cures infection” because bread mold led to penicillin, which led to a whole range of antibiotics. Still, legal cannabis will lead to new and better cancer treatments.



“Legalization will save zillions in law enforcement.”

Proponents always calculate the total cost of cops, courts and prisons in the War on Marijuana and then deduce that we’d save that much money with legalization. There’s just one problem: Bureaucracies never return unspent funds—instead, they spend them on something else. Cops, courts and prisons will still get that money; they’ll just spend it on real criminals.



“Marijuana is harmless.”

Nothing that can be ingested is completely harmless: You can die from drinking too much water or eating 10 raw potatoes. Although rare, some folks have been known to experience a cyclical vomiting syndrome from long-term pot use. Likewise, pot isn’t advised for people with certain mental illnesses. And pot may not be tobacco, but duh—it’s still smoke! That hacking cough of yours must mean something, right?



“Bogus presidential quotes”

Thomas Jefferson wasn’t toking on his “back veranda.” Abraham Lincoln wasn’t smoking weed on the porch playing his “Hohner harmonica” and never declared, “Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance.” These quotes have long since been debunked, no matter what the *Totally Baked* DVD says. The Founding Fathers’ hemp quotes, though, are totally legit.

some secrets are worth sharing.



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Weed Pass Failing in Holland

To absolutely no one's surprise, the first dalliance with pot prohibition in the Netherlands has been an unmitigated disaster after only two months, driving up illegal street sales of cannabis and undercutting the profits of law-abiding coffee-shops. All this nonsense stems from the mandated "weed pass" that Dutch adults in three southern provinces are now required to obtain



as of May 1 in order to become "club members" of Holland's famed coffee-shops—part of a misguided effort to curb "drug tourism" from neighboring European countries.

A privately commissioned study released in July and conducted by the University of Tilburg—located in one of the cities affected by the weed pass—found that black-market sales of pot to young people and those of non-Dutch, non-Caucasian backgrounds are on the rise. The reason: Street cannabis is 25 percent cheaper than what's being sold in the coffee-shops.

By 2013, the weed pass will be mandated for all of the Netherlands, so expect the black market—with all of its related baggage—to boom.



Big Brother Bummer

The government is set to deploy laser-based "molecular strip-search" devices at airports, roadside checkpoints, stadiums—anywhere that law enforcement wants to conduct surveillance.

What do they do? Instantly scan and identify every molecule on your body or person, which includes "the cocaine residue on your dollar bills, prescription drugs in your purse, marijuana in your pocket and even trace powder residue from your practice session at the gun range."

The scanner is called the Picosecond Programmable Laser. It works by blasting its target with lasers, which vibrate molecules that are then read by the machine. Instantly, without your knowledge, the scanner can determine what you've eaten, whether you're ovulating, whether you've got cancer or whether you've consumed alcohol.

It can also read whether your adrenaline is pumping. Essentially, your profile is scanned, tracked and logged by the government; then, combined with your search engine logs, web surfing habits, mobile phone text records, grocery purchasing habits, credit card records and everything else they have on you, a total police state profile of your psychology and behavior can be created.



The High Barr

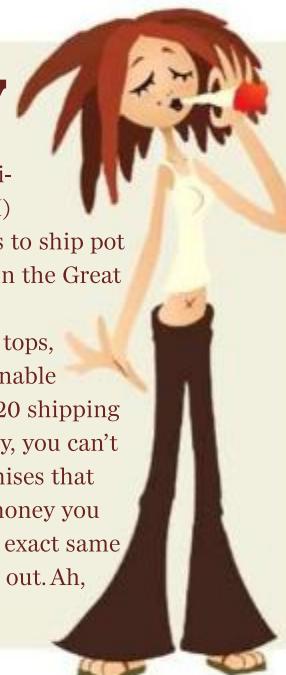
During the past few years, comedian Roseanne Barr has become one of our nation's most vocal celebrities in support of legal marijuana. In July, on *The Late Show With David Letterman*, Roseanne let it all hang out. "Obama's trying to take our medical marijuana in California," she declared, before adding: "I'll tell you this, Obama—you'll get my joint when you pry it out of my cold, dead fingers!" Roseanne, of course, was parodying Charlton Heston's vow to the NRA's membership about his guns. But she also played it straight: "It's not a joke, Dave," she said. "It's a real medicine that a lot of people can't live without." She went on to say that marijuana helps people with certain kinds of mental illness, "which is why I use it." More accurately, she's already on record as using marijuana for "anger and anxiety issues."

Weird, huh? Because pot prohibition causes anger and anxiety issues, too.

Special Delivery

They say you can get practically anything online. Apparently, in Canada, that includes marijuana. Online pot provider Mary Jane Mail (MJM) accepts email money transfers and money orders to ship pot in discreet, vacuum-sealed packaging anywhere in the Great White North.

MJM offers a wide variety of products: flower tops, hashish, extracts and edibles. The rates are reasonable (C\$45 for three grams of kind), but there is a C\$20 shipping fee. Most orders are received within a week (sorry, you can't pick up your stash). And even though MJM promises that you'll always receive equivalent *quality* for the money you paid, it can't guarantee that you'll always get the exact same strain you ordered in the event that supplies run out. Ah, the price of black market convenience.



Booze The Gateway Drug

Somebody call the producers of *MythBusters*—we've got a showstopper! A new study published in the August *Journal of School Health* reports that alcohol—not pot—is the so-called "gateway drug." Researchers at the University of Florida reanalyzed data from the University of Michigan's 2008 "Monitoring the Future" survey and discovered that 12th-graders who drank alcohol just *once* in their lives were 13 times more likely to smoke cigarettes or try cocaine and—irony of ironies—16 times more likely to smoke pot than those who'd never touched booze. As a result, the study recommends that alcohol should be the No. 1 priority of substance abuse prevention programs in schools.

Looks like DARE had better get busy rewriting its handbooks.



Freeman says "Legalize!"

Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman has already played God twice in the movies, and his rich voice serves as an omniscient voiceover in countless commercials. And he sure seems to have the wisdom of the Almighty. In the midst of a promotional tour for *The Dark Knight Rises*, Freeman told *Newsweek* in no uncertain terms that pot should be legalized: "Marijuana! Heavens, oh yeah. It's just the stupidest law possible, given history. You don't stop people from doing what they want to do, so forget about making it unlawful. You're just making criminals out of people who aren't engaged in criminal activity. And we're spending billions of dollars trying to fight a war we can't win! We could make billions, just legalize it and tax it like we do liquor."



War on Green

An outright ban on dispensaries was passed by the Los Angeles City Council in late July. Americans for Safe Access plans a ballot-box campaign to overturn the vote. "This is an outrage that the City Council would think a reasonable solution to the distribution of medical marijuana would be to simply outlaw it altogether," said ASA's Don Duncan.

MORE BUNGLING IN CANADA

Health Canada, the monolithic health-care agency serving our neighbor to the north, is once again making life difficult for medical pot patients by banning the cultivation of medicine in private residences. Instead, only large-scale industrial cultivators will be permitted to produce medical marijuana, which will sell for C\$150 an ounce—a definite hike in price for patients currently growing their own. Health Canada's justification for this regressive decision is that it hasn't been able to perform inspections on the gardens of the 15,000-plus Canadians already licensed to grow.

Talk about a slow-moving bureaucracy—Health Canada has been overseeing the nation's medical marijuana program for the past 10 years! Even worse, the "official" medical cannabis provided by Health Canada's approved growers has been roundly criticized for its exceedingly poor quality—which basically defeats the purpose of legal medical marijuana in the first place.

Because schwag isn't medicine!



Sports Get Smarter

Medical and recreational marijuana made progressive inroads in two professional sports in 2012. The California State Athletic Commission approved an amendment permitting therapeutic-use exemptions for participants in "combat sports" who use marijuana medicinally. That would include MMA fighter Nick Diaz, who's already been popped twice for pot use after drug tests—even though he's a legal medical marijuana patient in California.

Meanwhile, in the NBA, this summer marked the first off-season since 1998 that pro hoopsters won't be tested for pot (or any other drug, for that matter, aside from performance-enhancing substances like steroids), thanks to a new collective bargaining agreement.

Testing for pot would be a bureaucratic nightmare for the NBA: Experts estimate that up to two-thirds of the association's players use pot to varying degrees.

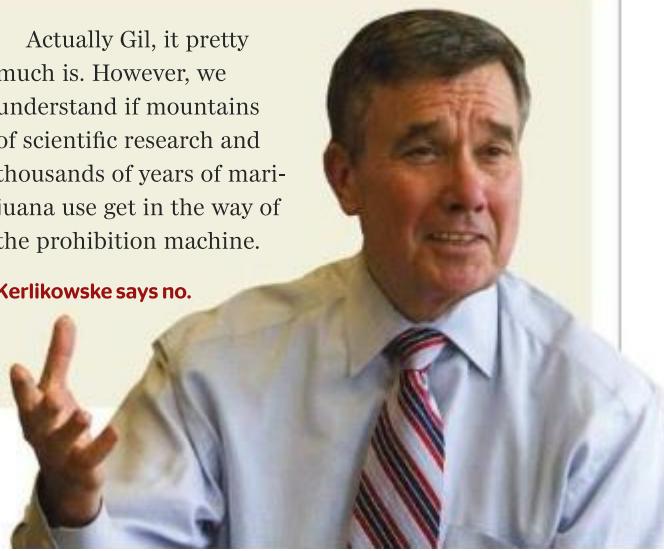
Military Vets Get the Shaft

US military personnel sacrifice life and limb for their country, but their government refuses to make available every possible method of restoring their health compromised on the battlefield. Michael Krawitz, executive director of Veterans for Medical Marijuana, originated a White House

website petition, subsequently signed by more than 8200 individuals, requesting that the Feds legalize medical pot for those with debilitating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske responded to the petition by stating pot doesn't meet the standards of safe or effective medicine (but hazardous pharmaceuticals do). He also stated that pot is not "benign."

Actually Gil, it pretty much is. However, we understand if mountains of scientific research and thousands of years of marijuana use get in the way of the prohibition machine.

Kerlikowske says no.



HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. By Bill Weinberg



New Burma opium war?

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi made a triumphal tour of Asia and Europe in June, hailing the democratic opening in a nation long ruled by a brutal military dictatorship. But even as Suu Kyi wowed the world media, ceasefires broke down between the Burmese government and the ethnic guerrilla armies that control vast areas in the country's north. Renewed fighting with both the Shan State Army and Kachin Independence Army left several dead in June.

Why the ceasefires are breaking down now may have to do with a new crackdown on Burma's lucrative opium trade. At the UN's behest, Burma—the world's second-largest opium producer after Afghanistan—has launched an aggressive poppy-eradication campaign, sending police troops armed with weed-whackers into the Shan State opium fields. According to the UN, opium production in Burma has more than doubled in the past five years.

Iranian military advisers, Brazilian drones aid Bolivian "Drug War"

Having kicked out the DEA four years ago, Bolivia is turning to "Axis of Evil" member Iran for counter-narcotics aid—probably just to tweak

Uncle Sam. At a June 19 meeting in La Paz, Bolivia's Evo Morales and Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad signed a bilateral agreement for the Islamic Republic's military to train Bolivian officers in intelligence and tactical operations.

Drones over Bolivia



Bolivian Drug Czar Felipe Cáceres also credited Brazilian reconnaissance drones for recent successful raids on narcotics traffickers in Bolivia's eastern jungles, with more than 240 cocaine labs destroyed in June, according to the government. Cáceres didn't provide any details about the unmanned aerial vehicles other than to say that they're Israeli-made, patrol the border between Bolivia and Brazil, and are also permitted to enter Bolivian airspace.

Honduras: US claims success in Drug War militarization

With anger still growing in Honduras over the May 11 raid on the remote village of Ahuas that left four dead, the White House shows no sign of reconsidering the Central American Regional Security Initiative, which permits the DEA and the Pentagon's Southern Command to operate in the region in cooperation with local security forces. Officials claim that the new cooperation is paying off, stating that last year, the US monitored more



Brownfield brags

than 100 small planes from South America landing at isolated airstrips in Honduras with no interference. In contrast, two such flights were intercepted in May—including the one involved in the Ahuas raid. As William R. Brownfield, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, boasted to the *New York Times*: "My guess is narcotics traffickers are hitting the pause button. For the first time in a decade, air shipments are being intercepted immediately upon landing."

Mexico: El Chapo's son not arrested after all; cartel war in Tamaulipas goes on

Mexico's government admitted on June 23 that it had mistakenly identified a detained man as the son of the country's most wanted drug lord, Joaquín Guzmán, a.k.a. "El Chapo" (Shorty), the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel. Just a day earlier, a man arrested in the Guadalajara suburb of Zapopan was paraded before the media as Jesús Alfredo Guzmán, a.k.a. "El Gordo" (Fatty), whose capture was hailed as the most important blow against the cartel in years. But a lawyer purporting to speak for the Guzmán family released a statement denying that the suspect in custody was the fugitive kingpin's son, and the arrested

man's mother, speaking to the press, also insisted that her son was not Jesús Guzmán and had no link to the Sinaloa Cartel—eventually forcing the prosecutor general to acknowledge that the arrested man was in fact Félix Beltrán León, a used-car salesman.

While the embarrassing goof made international headlines, the ongoing carnage in Mexico related to the struggle for dominance over the narco trade apparently merits little attention. The northeast state of Tamaulipas—where the Sinaloa and Gulf cartels are challenging Los Zetas—can now be said to be in an actual state of war. Fourteen mutilated corpses and a threatening message aimed at the Gulf Cartel were found inside



Bogus bust of El Gordo

a truck in a supermarket parking lot in Mante, in the south of the state, on June 23 (and, in a nearly identical incident several weeks earlier, the same number of dismembered bodies was discovered in a truck in Mante on June 7). Eerily, there were also two such incidents—both involving 14 mutilated bodies left in vehicles—in the Tamaulipas border town of Nuevo Laredo in April and May. And a car bomb exploded in Nuevo Laredo on June 30, just outside the municipal building and near a Mexican Army checkpoint, leaving at least

seven civilians wounded (including two women) and 11 vehicles completely destroyed.

The US consulate in Matamoros, also on Tamaulipas's border with Texas, issued a warning following a string of grenade attacks in the city—including two against school buildings. With local journalists intimidated by the violence, city residents have been using the #Matamoros hashtag on Twitter to report the ongoing attacks.



Weapons courtesy of Uncle Sam

US guns still flow to Mexican narco gangs

Even after the furor over Operation Fast and Furious, it remains clear that the weapons and ammunition for the Tamaulipas war are coming from the US. A federal judge in Brownsville, TX, sentenced two men to prison on June 19 for illegally exporting about 3,000 rounds of ammunition across the border into Matamoros. The two US citizens pleaded guilty in January to exporting defense articles without a license and were sentenced in June to three and five years in prison, respectively. *

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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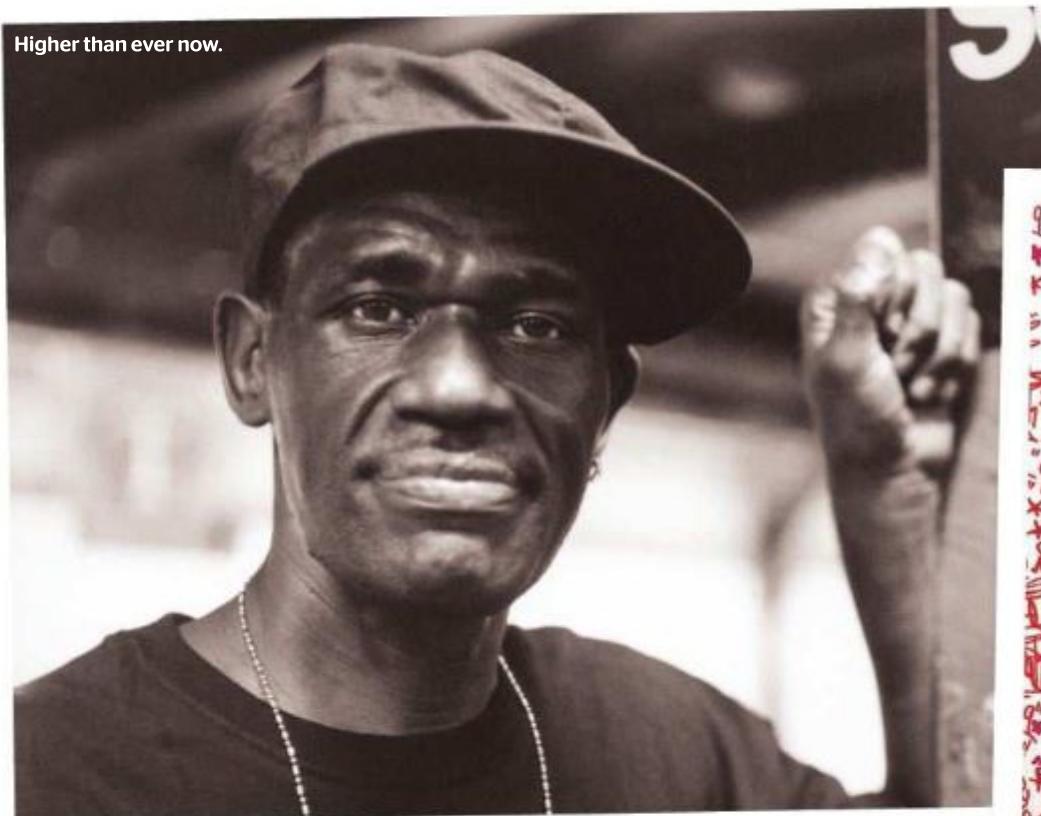
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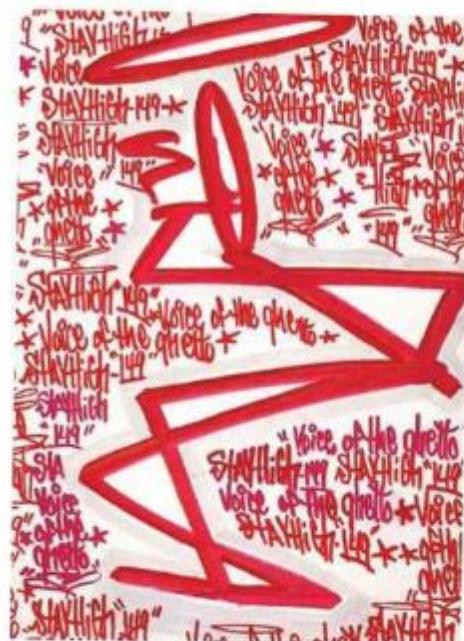
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"The 'Stay High 149' tag was groundbreaking on many levels."



A Bronx Tale

Remembering Stay High 149. *By Steven Hager*

Stay High 149, one of the most revered and influential graffiti writers in history, passed away from liver disease on June 11, 2012, at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. His real name was Wayne Roberts, and he remained one of the most elusive characters in New York graffiti history, disappearing for decades while living as a drug addict on the streets of the South Bronx. He was 61 years old and is survived by five siblings and two children.

The "Stay High 149" tag was groundbreaking on many levels. It was the first to incorporate a cartoon character, a stick figure of "The Saint" taken from the TV show of the same name—only Stay High's version usually had a smoking joint stuck in its mouth, and the crossbar in the "H" frequently contained another one.

In the early 1970s, when almost everyone was tagging a

nickname and street number, Stay High was the original guerrilla marijuana activist, promoting his favorite recreational activity for all to see—often in places that made you wonder how in the world he managed to get there. He was a messenger at the World Trade Center for many years, and his job took him all over the city via the subway system.

But it wasn't just the number of places Stay High got up, their difficult locations, his unique message, or the size and splendor of his evolving masterpieces that gave him his fame. What really set him apart was his gift for calligraphy, as well as his use of multicolored markers. Among the first generation of graffiti artists, Stay High and Phase 2 stand out for drawing the most graceful lines, so it's no wonder these twin titans remained close and often fed off each other's energy and innovations.

In 1973, Stay High was featured in an article in *New York* magazine that showed his face, and Wayne was arrested soon after in a brutal wave of repression against graffiti artists—a war that continues to this day. Wayne responded by branching out and creating new tags, including "Voice of the Ghetto," before suddenly disappearing from the scene altogether.

When I first began writing about graffiti and hip-hop around 1980, Fab Five Freddy spoke about Stay High 149 in the hushed and reverent tones reserved for the greatest of grandmasters. At the time, though, nobody seemed to know where to find him, and consequently, Wayne missed the rise and fall of the East Village art scene as well as the hip-hop/punk

nexus. But when he emerged from the shadows in 2000, he stopped by the *High Times* office for a rare video interview and soon began work on an autobiography and website—projects that were undertaken with the help of another writer, Freedom (Chris Pape).

But even after this comeback, and being welcomed at graffiti-art exhibits like a conquering hero, Wayne continued to use hard drugs and could be found on the streets of the South Bronx, selling his tag for a few dollars to supply his daily habit.

Regardless, nothing can erase the immense influence that Wayne Roberts had on the history of writing, or take away (let alone tarnish) his title as a true king of graffiti. *

Scan to watch Stay High.

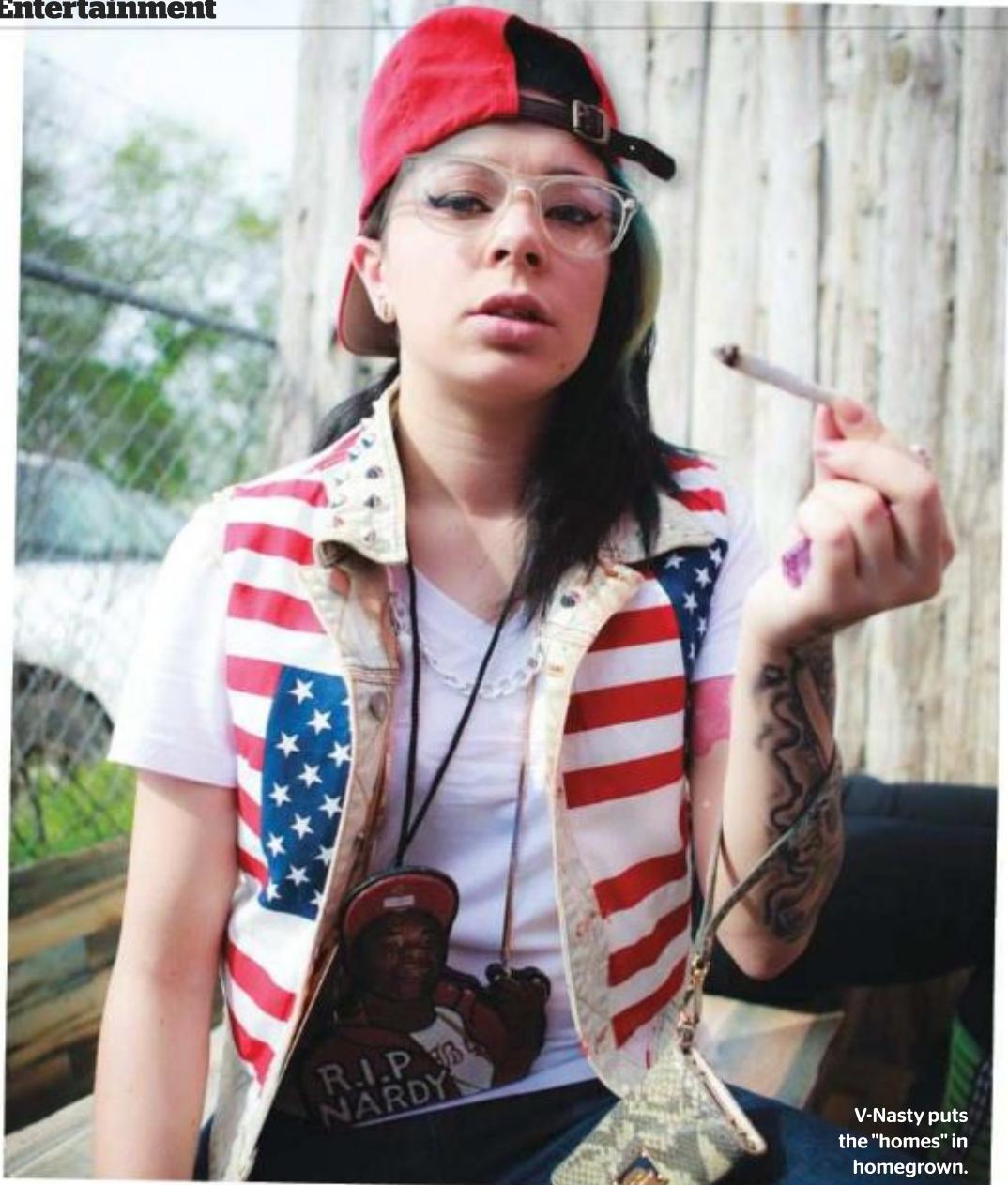


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The Miami Stay High Scandal

A few years ago, a graffiti artist working in Miami claimed to have originated the "Stay High 149" tag. Although he appeared sincere, few old-school writers bought into his story and so far, he has not responded to requests to take a lie detector test.



V-Nasty puts the "homes" in homegrown.

White Like V

V-Nasty takes on the haters. *By Justin Hampton*

Not too long after Kreayshawn declared "Free V-Nasty," the world hooked up with her polarizing White Girl Mob partner in crime and rhyme, Vanessa "V-Nasty" Reece. And not too long after V was released from Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, CA, where she'd been serving six months on a robbery charge, she detonated the Internet with a tough, confrontational mixtape and a series of videos that rained N-bombs and confrontational ultimatums down upon infuriated hip-hop heads, who insisted that white female MCs should stick to

their side of the racial divide. It's nothing V hasn't heard before.

"These motherfuckers are in love with people who been rapping since they were 13, and they were rapping about this hood shit, but how do [those kids] know [what they're talking about]? But when I really go through the shit, because I'm white, you can't love my music? 'You're not really doing what you're talking about!' Bitch, you don't know me!" she rants. "It always was like I have to prove myself [all my life]. I just wish a camera could be

on me every day, so people would really *know*."

Regardless, V-Nasty's boldness has pushed her out of Kreayshawn's shadow and won her a collaboration with one of her Dirty South idols, Gucci Mane, on *BAYTL* (Warner Brothers), released earlier this year. Recorded in Atlanta over a three-day span, the project gave haters even more ammo, as V went toe-to-toe with her spiritual mentor on the common ground shared in partying, street life and substance use. V-Nasty admits her fondness for the Dirty South—she

"I used to be sitting on the toilet and I used to read *High Times*—and it's crazy, 'cause I'm in *High Times* now."

counts Gucci alongside Lil Boosie and Webbie as formative influences—may one day cause her to relocate to Atlanta, a long way away from the Northern Cali strains she grew up smoking.

"[My uncle] used to have *High Times* magazine in his bathroom, 'cause he grows hella shit. And I used to be sitting on the toilet and I used to read *High Times*—and it's crazy, 'cause I'm in *High Times* now," she says. Like Kreay and others in the rap game, V also connects with "lean," or cough syrup, which she sometimes sprinkles on her blunts: "I have a lot of shit that goes through my mind a lot. I've seen my best friend die when I was young, and my mind always flashes and stuff. That shit helps me not think of shit like that."

For now, V-Nasty is holed up in Oakland dealing with her new career. While she'll be guesting on two tracks for Kreayshawn's *Something About Kreay* debut on Sony, V's focus is mainly on her own grind, which includes a mixtape and album. Early White Girl Mob booster Andy Milonakis will guest, but for now, V-Nasty has no word to offer on a release date or titles. But she's willing to tell anyone what to expect: "Guns, drugs, hos and money. And I have a story behind my life that I need to put out there in my music, you feel me?" In case you didn't: "I've been writing stories and real situations that happened *in my life*." *



Livin' La Vida Nasty

V-Nasty served time for robbery at Santa Rita Jail at the same time Johannes Mehserle was sentenced for involuntary manslaughter of Oscar Grant. According to V, the entire prison was placed on lockdown for 48 hours in anticipation of the verdict.

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UNSIGNED BAND
OF THE MONTH:

Oola Rocksteady

This big, hearty and diverse homegrown band out of San Francisco's Bay area will have you shaking your moneymaker before you can say "Oola Rocksteady."

Self-managed and self-produced, Oola Rocksteady began as a four-piece in 2008, performing at local bars and developing a reputation for a ragin' good time. Since then, the group has multiplied and now brings as many as 12 members to the stage at any given show.

As the band gained momentum and members, the sound developed into something entirely unique. Founder Michael Crays's socially driven, flowing lyrics



eventually evolved into ukulele-backed poetic melodies that span a dynamic range.

When Annessa joined the group in 2009, she teamed up with Jeff Littlefield to create some fan favorites. In 2011, Mark Ramirez and Nikki Danger came aboard and pushed Oola Rocksteady to the next level, defining their sound with vivacious effects and guitar-melting riffs.

For more info on Oola Rocksteady, including audio samples and tour dates, check out hightimes.com/OolaRocksteady.



John Kadlecik (far left) shreds on guitar alongside Bob Weir and Phil Lesh.

Deadhead Goes Furthur

John Kadlecik's love for the Dead lands him his dream job.

When Bob Weir and Phil Lesh evolved the Grateful Dead into a new touring group, Furthur, in 2009, John Kadlecik quickly proved that he was the perfect fit to fill the role of the Dead's legendary lead guitarist, Jerry Garcia. *High Times* caught up with Kadlecik when Furthur came to New York City's Beacon Theatre for an eight-night run this past spring. After sparking a joint, Kadlecik described his background as a musician.

"I was kinda late getting into most classic rock," he admits. Originally a student of the classical violin, Kadlecik says his love for improvisational music eventually inspired him to pick up a guitar.

Kadlecik saw his first Grateful Dead concert in 1989 and continued to attend as many shows as possible. Yet his desire to play led him to perform, write and record with several bands in the early to mid-'90s, including Midwest Hempfest regulars Hairball Willie, a group that played originals, Dead and more. Then, in 1997, Kadlecik created Dark Star Orchestra, a band that recreates live sets from the Grateful Dead's legendary 30-year history. "At first it was just a fun thing to do for a bunch of 'Deadhead' musicians ... the whole *DeadBase* was open to us for setlists."

Coincidentally, his time with DSO turned out to be the ideal training for his dream job. In the fall of 2009, Kadlecik happened upon an email in his spam folder that would change his life forever: "There was this message from Matt Busch [Bob Weir's manager] asking if I would audition

for the band," he recalls. "I thought I was being pranked."

But it was no joke: Furthur wanted him as their lead guitarist. After impressing at the audition, Kadlecik was asked to clear his schedule for the next two years and get ready to hit the road.

Although he was as well-prepared as anyone could be for the awesome new gig, the transition from leading DSO to playing in Bob and Phil's band was no small feat. "Mostly, it's just been getting to know what different looks mean and getting some sort of subliminal communication clear with each other—and that takes time," Kadlecik says. With a chuckle he adds, "Those guys stood next

to Jerry for 30 years. I think both of them have put a lot of time into some form of shamanic delivery for their vocals. They're telling a story to the tribe, and there's stuff carrying in their voice that's almost completely antithetical to what pop music is about. I aspire to that, but I can't speak to whether I get there or not."

Kadlecik may not have achieved shamanic status yet, but channeling his "inner Garcia," he's able to play a huge part in facilitating a genuine experience for fans. And pot has played a big role in that.

Kadlecik readily admits that he smokes "a lot ... I smoke, in part, to be a voice for the spirit of the plant—having it be a filter in the improvisation."

It's a spirit that flourishes at every Furthur show. And Kadlecik is enjoying every moment of his long, strange trip. *John McCooe*

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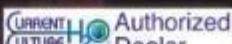
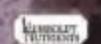
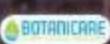
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From Seed to Smoke

A new book charts the history of marijuana, from its origin as a species to that joint in your hand.

Hallelujah and glory

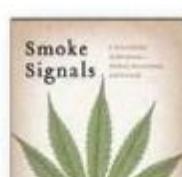
be to *Smoke Signals*, Martin Lee's bodacious new book, which in its 528 pages chronicles everything and everyone worth chronicling in the annals of marijuana—from our nation's first president, George Washington, who grew it; to our nation's first Drug Czar, Harry Anslinger, who aimed to kill it; to Cheech & Chong, who made it hysterically funny; to Barack Obama, who enjoyed getting high on it as a teen. The history of marijuana in the United States is the focus here, but Lee—who co-wrote the LSD classic *Acid Dreams*—also describes pot in prehistoric times as well as in Mexico, Jamaica and Amsterdam today.

Lee's passion for his subject breathes new life into a number of familiar tales involving well-known names (especially if you're a *High Times* reader): Dennis Peron, Ed Rosenthal, Brownie Mary and Valerie Corral, among others, are all here. Lee is clearly as devoted to the herb as any activist, and so he honors the lawyers, doctors, potheads and patients who have committed themselves to the cannabis cause, and—without any moralizing, simply by letting the facts speak for themselves—builds an unambiguous case for the end of pot prohibition. Archival photos provide further ammunition, while an appendix reprints Dr. Tod Mikuriya's valuable list of conditions and diseases that can be treated with cannabis: everything from arthritis and herpes to diabetes and shingles.

Lee argues impressively that the division between legitimate "medical users" and illegitimate "stoners" doesn't really help matters. "Cannabis confers preventative as well as palliative benefits that muddle the distinction between therapeutic and recreational use," he writes. He understands, too, that for teens, cannabis is an "efficient herbal means of navigating the ambient anxieties and frenetic complexities of modern life." What gives

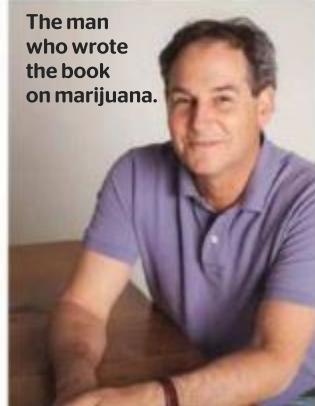
this book its enduring wallop is the author's unwavering recognition that the War on Drugs is motivated largely by a "lingering Puritan distrust of pleasure."

But as Lee makes clear, no matter what we choose to call it—pot, weed, herb, cannabis, ganja, marijuana or grass—after some 4,000 years of co-evolution with humans, this plant is here to stay. *Jonah Raskin*

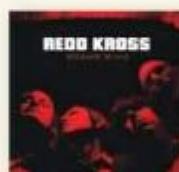


Smoke Signals:
A Social History
of Marijuana—
Medical,
Recreational, and
Scientific
Martin A. Lee
(Scribner)

The man
who wrote
the book
on marijuana.



MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Redd Kross
Researching the
Blues
(Merge)

On their first new album in 15 years, Redd Kross bros Jeff and Steven McDonald return with their blend of trash 'n' roll and English Invasion melodic flair. Choice tunesmithery abounds, especially the title track, while goodies like "Stay Away From Downtown" show that you can

mess with the rock any way you feel if it means you're writing great songs. These guys prove that all night with Beatles-ish (some might say Cheap Trick-ish) hummables delivered supertight. Even when Redd Kross are acting tough, they're doing it with a grin. *John Payne*



Liars
WIXIW
(Mute)

The confounding Liars have released several volumes of avant-garde thump/screech/howl whose chief curiosity is its nebulous standing within the literal-minded world of rock. The Los Angeles-based trio have now proffered *WIXIW*, a startlingly harmonious work whose tracks veer toward

a subversive electronic pop jam-packed with beats and melodies. There's a Liars-only type of symmetry to these brooding mazes of sonic and lyrical ambiguity, which impart a highly visual sense that something's happening ... though what that might be is anyone's guess. *John Payne*



Blues Control
Valley Tangents
(Drag City)

Before rolling your eyes at the thought of yet another girl/guy two-piece indie band, fret not: Blues Control will never end up doing annoying TV ads, because they're just too fucking weird, as demonstrated on their new LP, *Valley Tangents*. Take the opener, "Love's a Rondo"

(probably not an ode to the Boston Celtics point guard), which kicks off with Lea Cho delivering a Vince Guaraldi-like jazz-piano theme before Russ Waterhouse's fuzzy guitar joins in with the tinkling. Similarly, "Opium Den" could be played in any hash bar with its flute-led swirls of whimsy. *Mark Miller*



**Six Organs of
Admittance**
Ascent
(Drag City)

Fire up the ashram for Six Organs of Admittance, a psychedelic powerhouse who warp time and space to revisit the Eastern-tinged, acid-baked '60s. This project of Ben Chasny (Comets on Fire, Current 93) surveys the more adventurous neighborhoods of rock—space, post- and

experimental—over the past 14 years. Tracks like the droning, monkish "They Called You Near," the tender, finger-picked "Your Ghost" and the dreamy closer "Visions (From Io)" are more reserved, but the remainder of the album consists of expansive, wall-shaking blowouts. *Chris Parker*



**Muddy Waters
& the Rolling
Stones**
Live at the Checkerboard
Lounge—Chicago 1981
(Eagle Rock Entertainment)

Right before the Stones slid into the musical irrelevance they practice today, Mick, Keef and Woody stopped in on a Muddy Waters club gig to jam with the man whose song "Rollin' Stone" gave them their handle. There are no giant phalluses or light shows on this CD/

DVD set, just pure, slow, nasty and deep Chicago blues. The duet on "Hoochie Coochie Man" betwixt Waters and Jagger is an improvised delight—two old pros having fun—and *HT* readers will especially dig the pair's intoxicated advocacy on "Champagne and Reefer." *Michael Simmons*



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MUNCHIES

Batty Aunt Birdy's Dense and Delicious Chocolate Greens Cake

There's always at least one in every family: the relative whose presence at reunions, gatherings and birthday parties is collectively dreaded—until said aggravating party shows up with the *one* dish that no one else has ever

quite been able to master.

Well, in our family, Aunt Birdy was the dear, dreaded relation with the transcendent touch for making delectable sweets—especially this amazingly moist cake with its real cocoa, cinnamon spice and the grated zucchini that you can hardly taste, but that you know is in there supplying the incredible texture. This is the dessert that makes our in-laws' (and outlaws') mouths water on the drive over, praying to their respective gods that if Birdy *has* to be there, then *at least* she'd better bring that cake.

I must admit that I'm especially pleased to be sharing this recipe for two reasons: First, Aunt Birdy would be mortified by the *High Times* special ingredient. And second, it's my opinion that this is one of the few recipes in which straining the ground cannabis out of the butter before adding it to the batter is a completely preferential thing. *Mary Ought Six*

CHOCOLATE GREENS CAKE

1 cup butter
1/4 oz. ground cannabis
1 1/4 cup sugar
3 eggs
2 1/2 cup flour
1/4 cup cocoa
1/2 cup sour milk
(to make the sour milk, add 1 tsp. apple cider vinegar to 1/2 cup milk, let the mixture set for five to 10 minutes, then stir and add when needed)
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups grated zucchini
(washed but not peeled; cut 1/2 inch off each end before grating)

Topping:
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup chopped walnuts (or whatever kind you prefer)
1/2 cup chocolate chips

Melt the butter over low heat

in a double-boiler. Stir in the cannabis until coated and then continue stirring intermittently for 45 minutes, making sure not to let the weed start smelling toasty in the slightest.

Preheat the oven to 340°F. In a large bowl, combine/whip the cannabutter with the sugar and eggs, then cream/mix until smooth. (A handheld mixer or fork will work for this.)

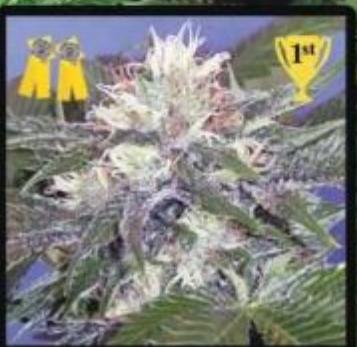
Mix the flour and cocoa together and stir in the rest of the dry ingredients. Next, stir in the remaining cake ingredients until there's hardly a lump (flour-wise) to be found, then pour the batter into a greased 13" x 9" pan. To make the topping, simply mix the ingredients thoroughly. Finally, spread the topping evenly across the top of the cake and bake for 40 minutes. (PS: More chocolate chips can be added to the batter or topping if you so desire.) *Stones 14*

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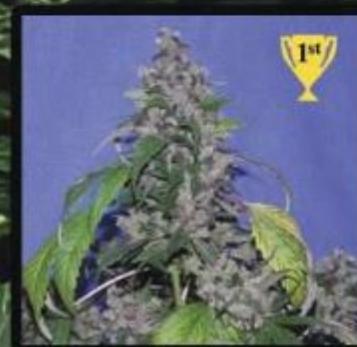
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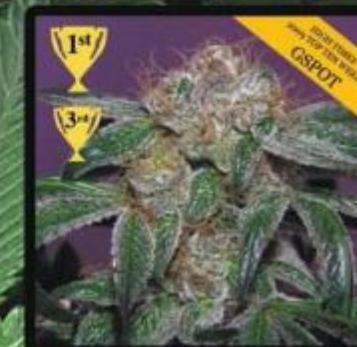
VSC



420



Lady Liberty



GSPOT



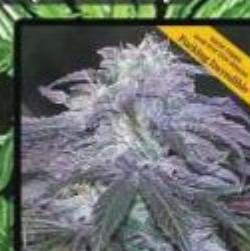
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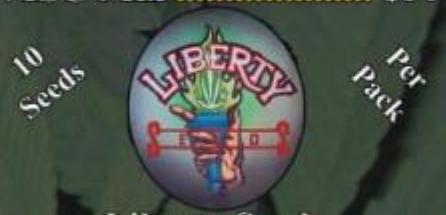
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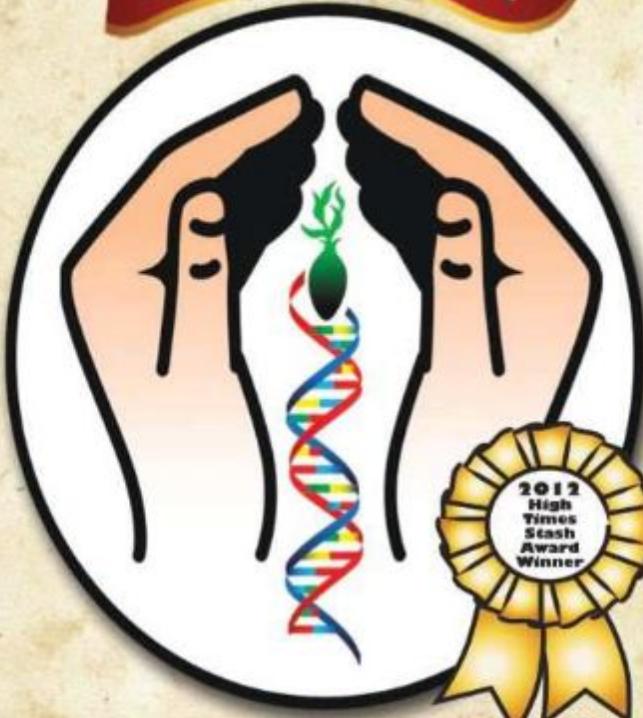
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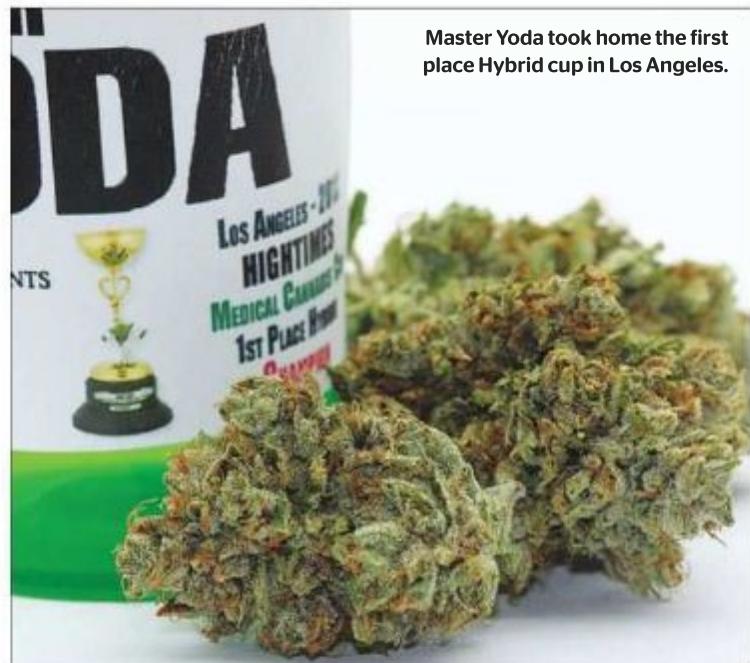
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Master Yoda took home the first place Hybrid cup in Los Angeles.

Medical Strain of the Month

Master Yoda

The Force is indeed strong with this hot new strain, as evidenced by its first place finish in the Hybrids category at the First Annual *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Los Angeles in January. Entered by LA's own The Kush Connection dispensary, Master Yoda—the end result of a brilliant cross of an OG Kush F1 and a Master Kush P1—has been in extremely high demand in Southern California and far beyond ever since earning our top pot prize. And with good reason, since any Kush-dominant strain capable of standing out among all of the available SoCal versions of that legendary cannabis genetics lineage must be truly out of this world.

For starters, you don't need to go far beyond lab results showing 20.67% THC to realize that ingesting this space-age herb can quickly send an inexperienced user to a galaxy

far, far away. So unless you've undergone the training, please proceed with caution and keep your targeting computer engaged. But for the rest of us, who need extremely powerful medicine—red-eyed Jedi if you will—spending the day or evening with Master Yoda will undoubtedly provide an enlightening and highly medicinal experience. In fact, by combining the uplifting effects of a *sativa* with the pain relief properties of an *indica*, Master Yoda does exactly what a high-quality hybrid should do by offering the best of both worlds.

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David Bienenstock

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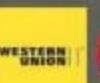
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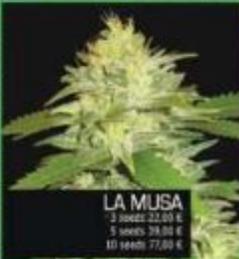
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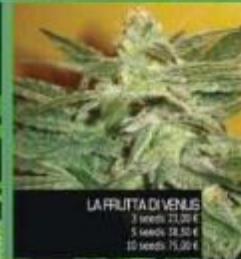
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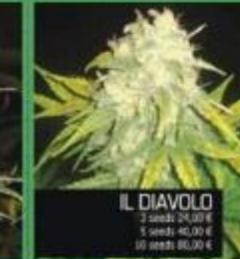
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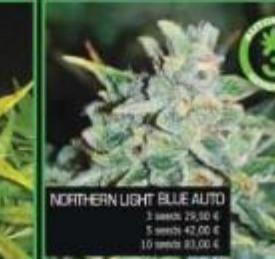
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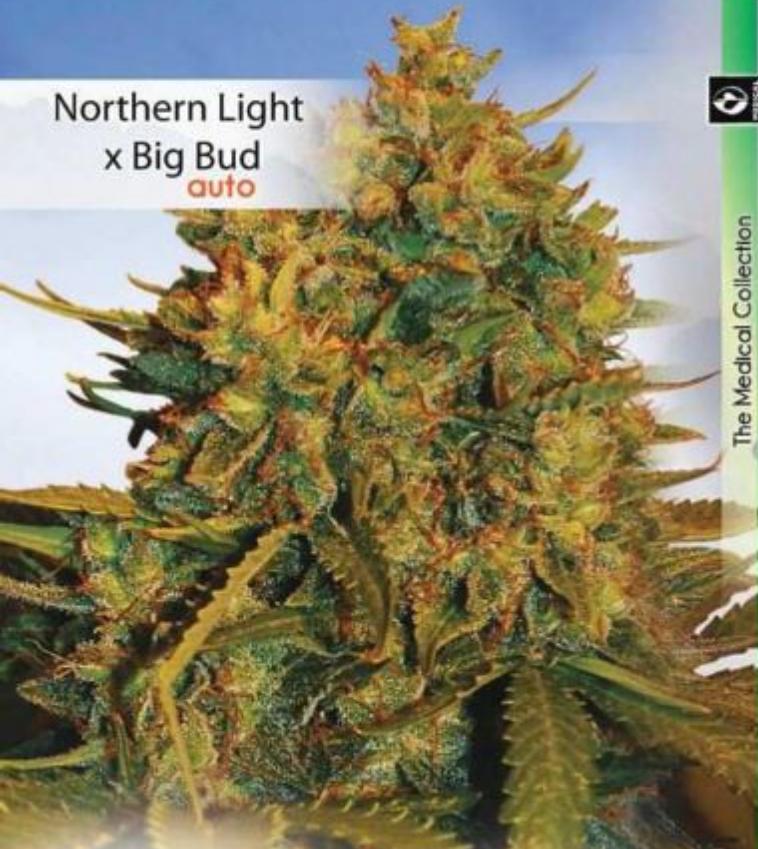
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DOMINA STAR	18,50 €	40,90 €	70,20 €
STAR 57	18,75 €	41,80 €	71,65 €
CHIOMIC HAZE	17,40 €	36,85 €	64,40 €
MAZAD KUSH	18,75 €	37,60 €	64,45 €
STRAWBERRY BLUE	18,45 €	38,75 €	65 €
SLIMB 47	18,75 €	41,80 €	71,65 €
NEW YORK 47	18,75 €	41,80 €	71,65 €
YUMBOLT 47	18,75 €	41,80 €	71,65 €
NEW YORK SPECIAL	28,50 €	63 €	108 €
AFGHAN KUSH SPECIAL	28,50 €	63 €	108 €



Diamond Collection

DELIRIUM	23 €	51 €	90 €
STONED PRIMAVERA	18,50 €	43 €	72 €
ANARCHIA	20 €	46 €	77 €
CRESSION	17,50 €	40 €	69 €
HIGH TENSION	17,50 €	40 €	69 €
MADNESS	19,50 €	45 €	75 €
SPICE	20 €	46 €	77 €
PRIVILEGE	20 €	46 €	77 €



Pure Origin Collection

AFGHAN KUSH	18,50 €	43 €	73 €
PAKISTAN VALLEY	19,50 €	45 €	75 €
WILD THAILAND	17,50 €	43 €	69 €
KETAMA	18,50 €	43 €	73 €
SOUTH AFRICAN KATZIJIU	21 €	48 €	80 €
KUSHMANIA	17,50 €	43 €	75 €
COLOMBIAN GOLD	19,50 €	45 €	75 €
BRASIL AMAZONIA	17,50 €	45 €	75 €



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MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

While the US Price and Kind indices essentially held steady this month, the Mids Index experienced a jump in average price and finished November at its second highest average of 2012. This increase indicates that the price of brand name pot is decreasing and dropping into the higher end of the Mids Index (strains more than \$350 fall into the Kind Index).

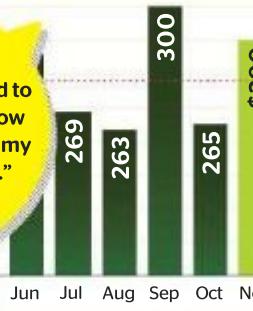
US Price Index
YTD Average: \$332



Kind Index
YTD Average: \$412



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$278



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$101



(Cheese)
"So stinky I'm afraid to open the jar ... I know the smell will draw my mooch neighbor."
Seattle, WA

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
Alabama	Montgomery	Grape Ape	\$250
Arizona	Phoenix	Purple Kush	350
Arkansas	El Dorado	Critical +	400
California	Los Angeles	OG Kush	380
	San Jose	Sensi Star	300
		Jillybean	275
Colorado	Boulder	Golden Goat	325
	Denver	Tahoe OG	250
		Granddaddy Purps	300
Florida	Daytona Beach	Blue Dream	350
		Kush	400
Georgia	Atlanta	Larry OG	400
		Afgooye	300
Hawaii	Kauai	Master Kush	420
Illinois	Chicago	OG Kush	350
		Skunk #2	340
Indiana	Fort Wayne	Tangerine Dream	400
		Super Silver Haze	380
		Master Kush	360
Kansas	Wichita	Blueberry	345
Kentucky	Louisville	Northern Lights	380
Massachusetts	Boston	Sour Diesel	350
Michigan	Lansing	Jack Herer	400
Minnesota	St. Paul	Blue Dream	300
	Winona	Great White Shark	350
New Hampshire	Manchester	Blue Dream	420
		Afghani Kush	300
New Jersey	Jersey City	Strawberry Cough	400
		Ghost Train Haze	420
New York	Albany	Super Lemon Haze	400
	Brooklyn	Pineapple Kush	560
		Sour Diesel	560
North Carolina	Charlotte	OG Kush	400
Oregon	Portland	Blue Dream	240
		Cheese	240
Ohio	Cleveland	Strawberry Cough	380
Pennsylvania	York	Orange Kush	275
Tennessee	Nashville	White Widow	480
Texas	Waco	Blueberry Kush	300
Washington	Seattle	Cheese	300
		Super Lemon Haze	280
Wisconsin	Sussex	White Widow	500
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Toronto	Sour Diesel	C\$280
	Calgary	Kush	240

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(White Widow)
"Prices are so damn high here! Especially compared to my home state of Missouri."
Sussex, WI

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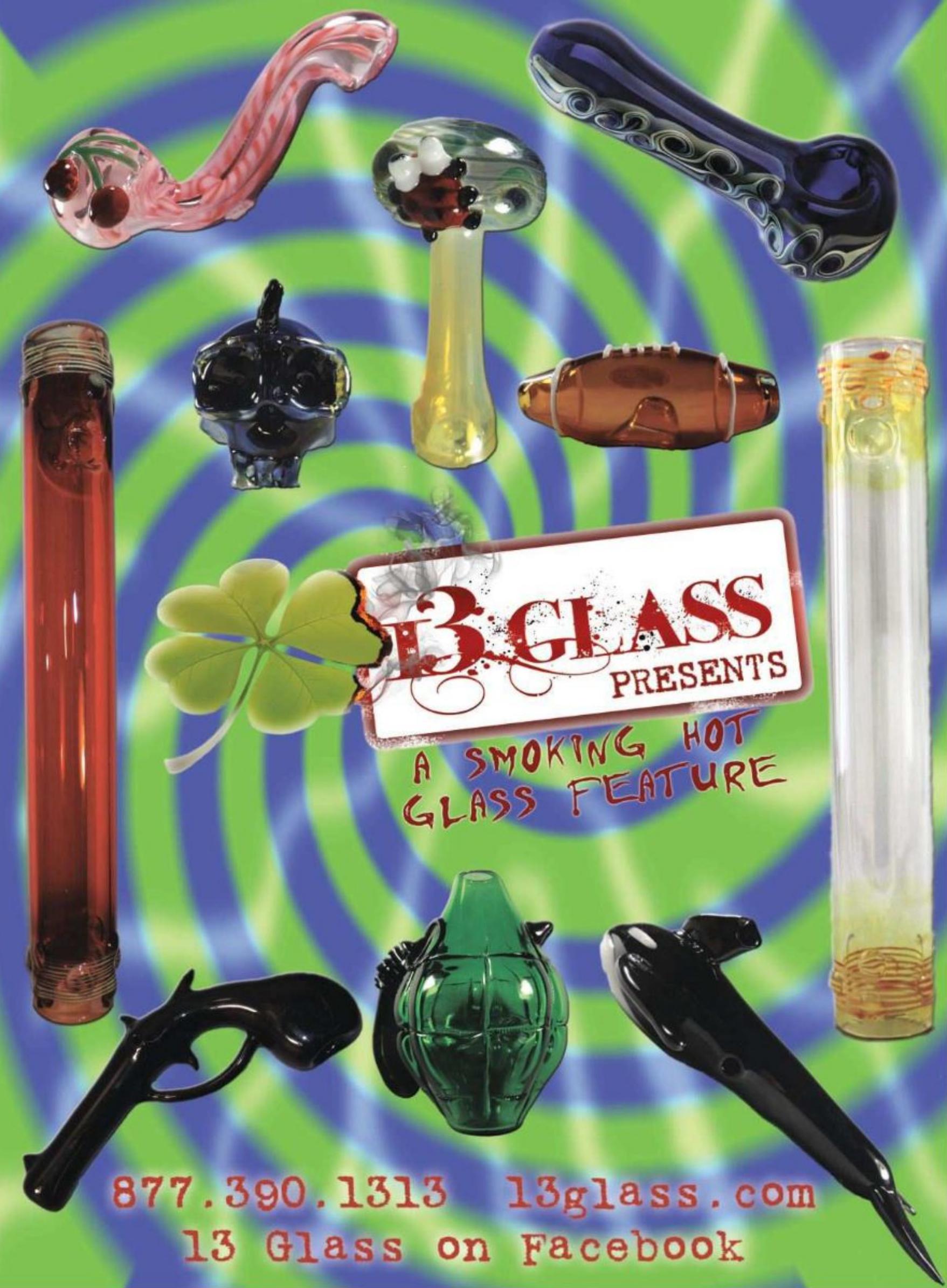
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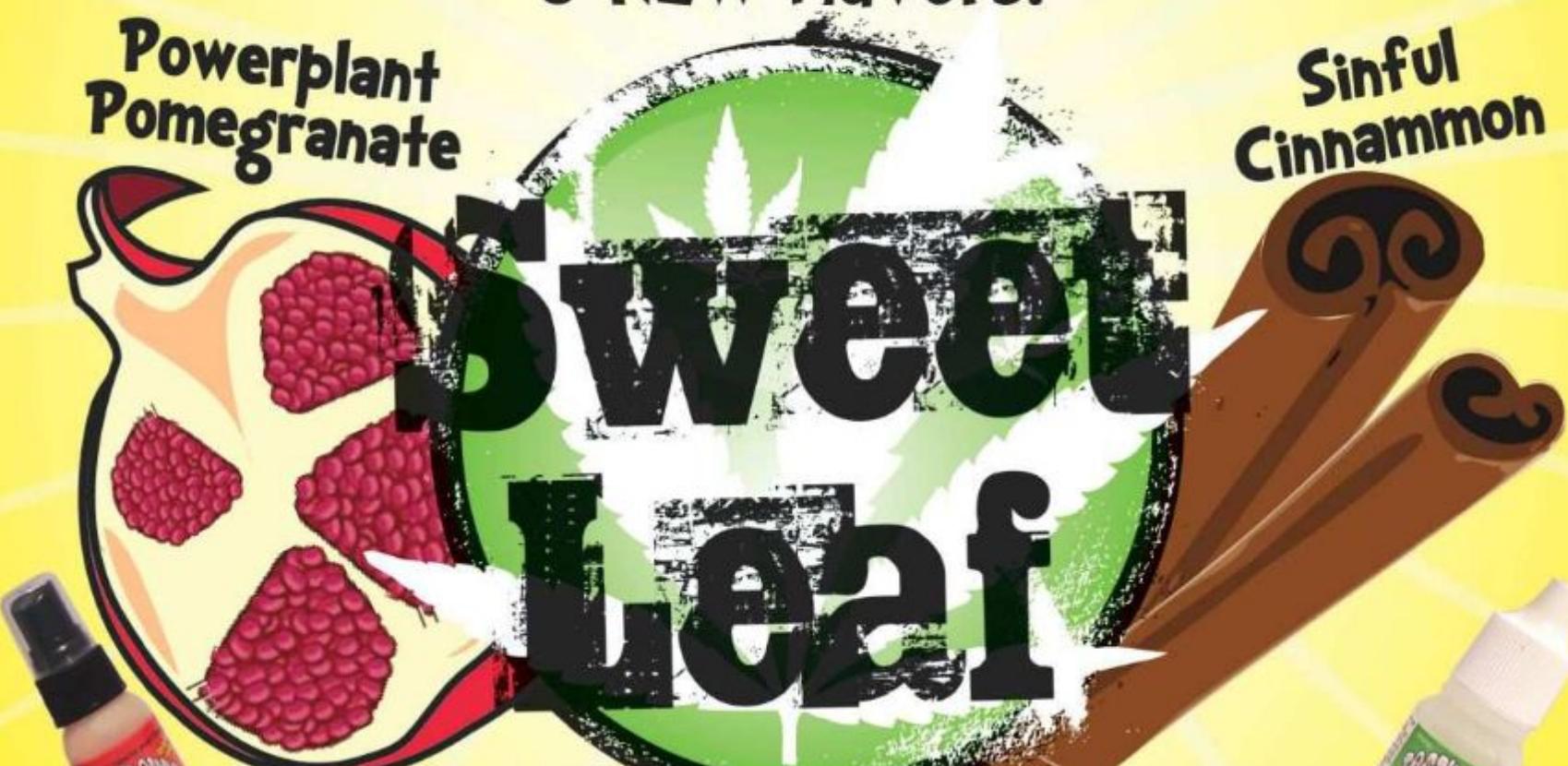
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If there's one lamentation often heard among year-round indoor growers, it's that there's never a good time for vacation. Given all the technological advances that have emerged over the years for the indoor horticulture industry, one would think that someone (or something) would have come along by now to lessen the strain on the hardworking indoor cultivator.

But such an event has never come to pass ... until now.

Story & photos by Nico Escondido

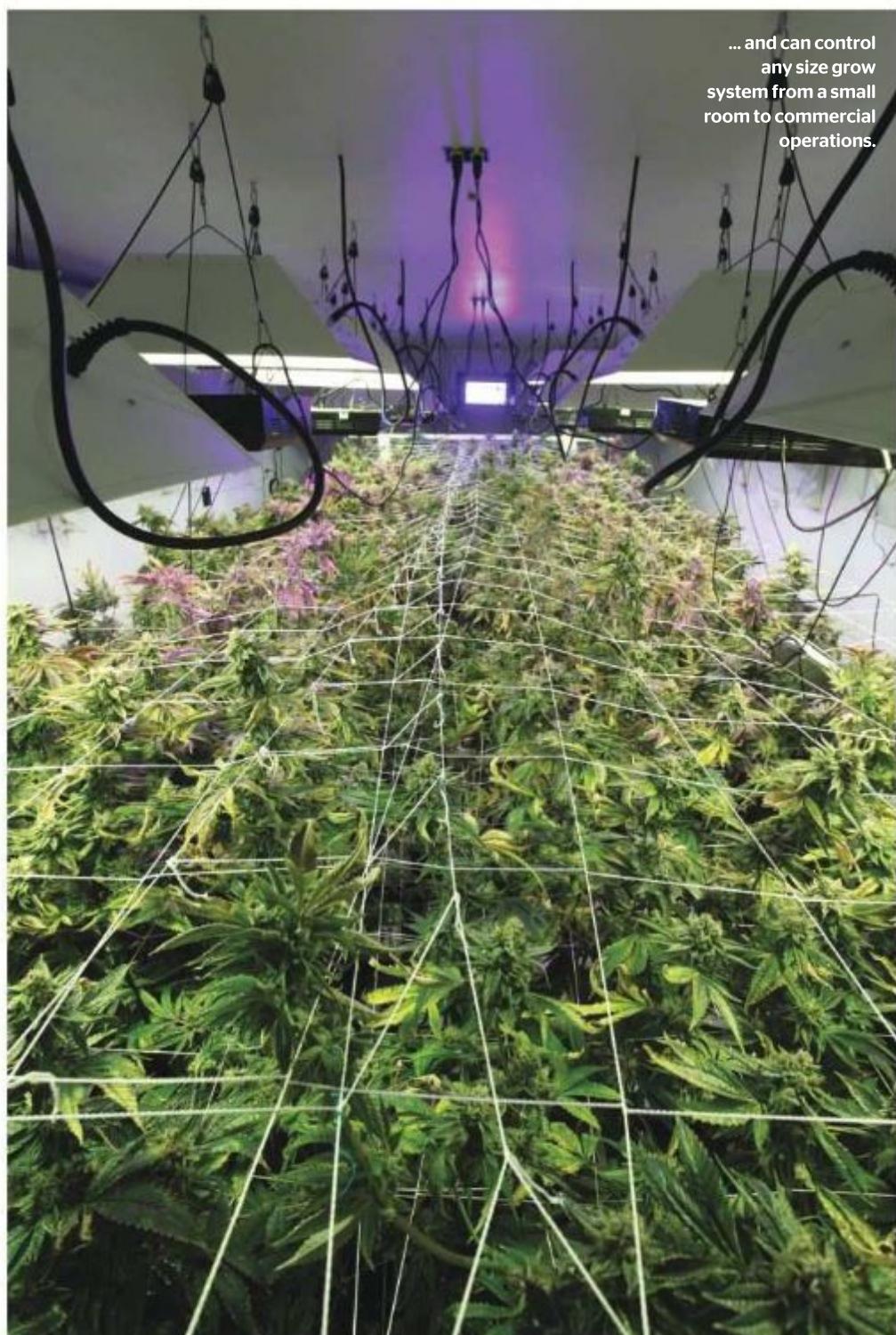


The Benefits of a True Remote Control System

To begin, let's differentiate between the two terms we'll be using here. We've heard for years about "automated" grow systems. This term usually refers to indoor grow operations that have time-controlled systems for anything from watering and feeding to atmosphere and lighting control. The term can also be applied to outdoor or greenhouse grows that deploy, say, automated watering systems. All of these setups generally rely on a combination of short-cycle timers and longer, 24-hour programmable timers. Automated systems give growers a bit of a break from having to be "hands on" in their gardens around the clock.

But these short-lived reprieves are exactly that: short-lived. Automated grow systems still do not afford growers the luxury of being absent from their grows for days on end, and they still require the element of frequent human contact. This is not to say that human interaction isn't essential in the first place, as we all know that daily interaction between a grower and the plants is integral to a successful grow.

However, with new technology comes a progression in horticultural approaches, grower lifestyle and growroom functionality (which also encompasses notions of energy efficiency, security and myriad other items we don't regularly consider when we think about automated systems). The natural next step in growroom evolution is to move from "automated" to "remotely controlled" systems. The benefits of this new step are pretty obvious: We are taking existing automated system controllers (albeit enhanced and evolved) and interfacing them with a mobile device that acts as a remote control from anywhere there's a Wi-Fi or cellphone signal.



What the Remote Control Growroom Can Do

Let's touch on the origins of the new product line specifically discussed in this article, since other similar gear has started to pop up on the market as well. Then we'll get into the details of what exactly this gear can do.

As part of an effort to broaden its horizons, LED giant Stealth Grow has designed a new indoor horticultural system boasting a full package of smart sensors that can be remotely controlled from almost anywhere on the planet. The product line falls under the purview of Grow Life Inc., the new parent company of Stealth Grow, which is currently

unveiling an all-encompassing lineup of cannabis-culture-related subsidiaries during its ongoing rollout this year.

The new Stealth Grow technology isn't just for controlling lights, but gets into every aspect of an indoor grow op. With five categories of sensors and controllers that interface with a medium-sized tablet (which comes included in the full system package, but is otherwise optional), growers can have a multitude of growroom controls at their fingertips. Here's a run-down of what's currently available with the initial release of the remote control smart-sensor system:

Main Controllers

The dock station, or “brain,” comes standard with any system unit or package and will usually be situated either in the growroom or the area containing the AC/HVAC unit (if one is being used to cool the growroom). The brain not only holds (and charges) the tablet while the grower works, but it’s also capable of making intelligent decisions—based on user-defined settings—when the grower is not in the garden. The brain also acts as the wireless connection point for sensors and the Internet as well as an HVAC controller if it’s close enough to wire to the unit.

The wireless tablet is a mobile smart device that, while not necessary to purchase, is highly recommended, as it has a larger interface screen than most wireless smart devices. Still, users may choose to use their own smartphones or tablets and simply download the system software. The local dashboard feature of the interface app allows users to visually read garden levels and remotely adjust the levels and settings accordingly.

Smart Environmental Controls (SECs)

The light, temperature and humidity (LTH) sensors are a core component of the remote control system and monitor atmospheric conditions within the garden. One of the many smart features of this system is that several LTH sensors can be used (especially in larger growrooms) to record a range of levels. The system’s brain can give the grower an average of these readings or break it down to specific areas of the garden.

The CO₂ sensor takes readings in standard parts-per-million (ppm) and interfaces with the brain to send those readings to the grower’s tablet. CO₂ generators can be turned on and off accordingly, as well as exhaust or intake fans if the grower chooses to vent CO₂ out or bring in fresh air from the outside.

Smart Irrigation Controls (SICs)

These controls include a host of components, some of which have yet to be seen even in current automated setups.

A floating reservoir sensor takes a variety of readings: pH, EC or TDS, and water temperature. Dosing pumps work adjacent to the garden reservoirs and supply the desired increments of pH Up or pH Down and/or specific nutrients and additives depending on grower-defined PPM levels, or when garden deficiencies are noticed via the video monitoring system (see the section on



the Security Control sensors below).

The wireless soil/substrate moisture sensors measure the moisture level within the medium and can either alert the grower when it falls below preset levels so that action can be taken using a smart control device, or else be set to automatically water gardens and bring the medium up to the desired preset moisture level. Irrigation sensors can also be used more simply as automated timers that turn a watering system on and off at preset times and durations, regardless of the moisture content within the substrate (since some hydroponic systems use limited grow mediums—i.e., nutrient-film technique, deep-water-culture bucket systems, etc.)

The floating SIC sensor also monitors the reservoir water level and has a flood sensor to alert the grower of dangerously high or low levels of H₂O within the reservoir.

Smart Lighting Controls (SLCs)

A single modular lighting component can control up to 24 lights; however, these can also be bundled together for large-scale operations. These SLCs are wirelessly networkable with each other, enabling the grower to use as many lights as needed.

The SLCs also provide power outage notification and power consumption tracking reports. A valuable component of the lighting controllers is the environmental control integration program, which allows a grower to sequentially power lights on and off in banks when the heat level rises above a set point. This function is especially valuable in setups that don’t use AC units and rely on exhaust/intake only for temperature control.

Security Controls (SCs)

The security controls go beyond just simple break-in and theft monitoring: They also monitor gardens and can take snapshots or record video segments based on preset triggers defined by the grower. For instance, cameras can turn on at certain times of the day, or anytime an SC senses a door or window open. Motion detectors can also trigger image recording. Or growers can set up cameras around problem areas of the garden and have them send periodic images of the specific tables or plants to monitor their progress and development remotely. This function is perhaps one of the most valuable for growers who truly need to observe their garden’s progress from afar for lengthy periods of time.



The SLC will control banks of lights, including different combos of lighting and varying start-up/turn-off cycles.

Using Your “Brain”

These remarkable features of the system are not based solely on a bunch of remotely controlled smart plugs limited to on/off functionality. Rather, the dockstation “brain” is exactly what the name implies: intelligently programmed, powerful software that comes loaded with built-in, multi-timer functionality—including short-cycles timers—so that growroom equipment can be turned on or off for preset periods either automatically, based on user-defined guidelines or by manual control from remote locations when the grower checks in on specific garden parameters.

Because of this capacity, growers don’t have to conform to any specific growing methodology. The brain does come with standard default settings for all growroom parameters for the newbie just starting out, but it’s completely reprogrammable for more advanced growers who know exactly what their gardens need and when they need it.

The AC or HVAC control is done via hard wiring from the brain to the HVAC unit, with actual terminal blocks built into the station to control the HVAC system the same way any standard home thermostat control would. The amount of thought and time that’s been invested in developing this system—especially in terms of designing and building the software—is unprecedented for the indoor horticulture industry. And it all comes at a reasonably affordable price (base packages starting at less than \$1,000).

Modules, Packages and Pricing

Modular base packages with the dock station/brain: Starting at less than \$1,000.

The modular (component-based) system design allows for unlimited add-ons and reconfigurations that cater to the needs of all gardens, big and small alike (prices vary).

Mobile smart tablet: Approximately \$300 when bought separately.

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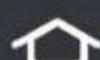
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About the Mobile Device Interface/Programming

For starters, the mobile smart tablet manufactured specifically for this remote control system only comes with the full system package; it doesn't come standard with the various other packages, nor (as mentioned earlier) is it necessary to purchase it. However, it is recommended to use this tablet, as its screen size and built-in components (processors, RAM, etc.) have been specially selected and designed for optimal functionality with this system. Still, growers have the option of using their own mobile device, such as an iPad, iPhone or other PC tablet or smartphone.

The intelligent control software comes fully loaded on the dock station, which does come standard with the various system packages. Any and all smart mobile devices are able to connect to the brain and download the program software. The software is also available for download via the Internet with the proper login credentials.

The dock station also comes with another invaluable function should the grower choose to make use of it: a user-accessible Internet "cloud" housed on secure servers that can store and back



Growers can view a multitude of pages on the SG tablet (or smartphone) including reports, charts, metrics and stats storage.

up recorded growroom information and reports. If the grower prefers, he or she can also download system data onto SD cards (the docking station has card slots built in) and move that data to secure storage devices of his or her own choosing. However, using the available server cloud allows growers to access their data via their tablet or smart device from anywhere in the world they can get Internet access.

Once the grower opens the software program on a tablet or smartphone, the main page hosts a dashboard setup that gives the grower up-to-the-minute, real-time readings on every aspect of the garden—from temperature

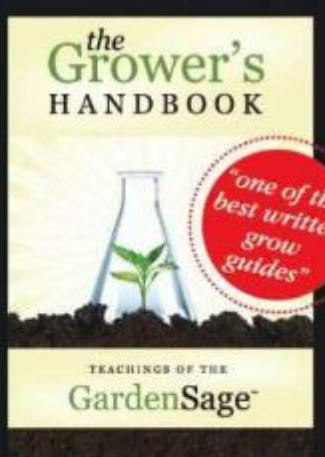
and CO₂ levels to reservoir conditions and substrate saturation (just to name a few). From the main dashboard, all growroom statistics for the day, week, month or even longer can be correlated, averaged and displayed on secondary program pages that can also create charts, graphs and reports to suit each grower's individual needs. Each page has touchscreen buttons for ease of control, and each function is recorded and saved so that growers can revisit the preset conditions after each harvest to research what went right (or wrong).

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How It Works

As with the human body, the remote control smart-sensor system begins and ends with the brain. The docking station serves as the main CPU (central processing unit) of the system. The brain interfaces with the mobile smart device of your choosing, though any module or package of this system can use the Stealth Grow custom-designed tablet.

The tablet is the grower's handheld remote control and will function anywhere there's a Wi-Fi or cellphone signal. The brain will always be stationary and should be housed either inside or very near the garden. The various types of sensors that are available are all placed within the growroom and will wirelessly send their data to the brain, which in turn supplies that information to the tablet or smartphone in the grower's hands.

From the smart device, the grower can remotely control every growroom function, as previously discussed—everything from lights and watering to security and garden-image relays. The system itself can function universally, meaning it can access the Internet and send information to smart devices via the Web or via cell phone signals such as the 3G or 4G networks. However, for those growers



More SIC sensors are plugged into grow mediums to help growers adjust moisture levels and feeding programs.

with additional security on their minds, the system can also function independently or internally on its own intranet (local network) platform.

With plenty of customizable options for programming, the brain can store and remember a grower's preferences for each

successive cycle—which means that if something worked very well one time, it's easy to replicate those results. Conversely, if something was unsuccessful with a garden, the brain can generate the reports and statistics to help the grower analyze what went wrong and pinpoint the exact time within the cycle that a specific aspect needs to be tweaked.

Still, perhaps the most amazing feature of the remote control smart-sensor system is that

indoor growers no longer need to be tied to their gardens 24/7, taking much of the stress out their day-to-day operations.

Which means the time has finally come when you can head out of town for that summer (or winter) vacation and still be in control of exactly what's going on in your growroom back home. It's a wonderful world indeed. 

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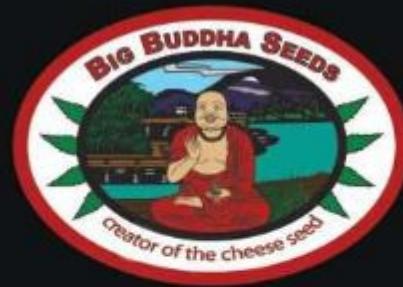
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A look at conflict regions where the marijuana produced is anything but 'kind.'

BLOOD GANJA

By Bill Weinberg



Cannabis is mixed up with warfare in much of the world. Because it is illegal, the production and distribution networks are frequently run by the same criminal cartels that control other illicit substances: heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and contraband weapons. Also, in much of the world, alleged anti-drug "enforcement" efforts get co-opted in a violent struggle for *control* of these contraband networks. Invariably, it is the little people in the system—peasant cannabis growers, "mules" (the expendable cogs who actually carry the stuff across borders) and innocent bystanders—who bear the brunt of the violence.

Mexico: Slave-Labor Cannabis and the Cartel Wars

Severed heads in Michoacán, urban warfare in Matamoros, mass graves along the south bank of the Rio Grande, mutilated bodies left hanging from highway overpasses in Ciudad Juárez—the grisly war

being waged just across our southern border in Mexico piles up new atrocities every day. Just since 2006, when President Felipe Calderón took office and sent in the army to fight the cartels aggressively, an estimated 50,000 people have been killed. The impetus for this conflict are the massive profits from the cocaine trafficked up from South America—and from the heroin and cannabis produced in Mexico. This stuff is almost always bound for the US market; Mexico is by far the biggest source for imported cannabis in the US.

Cannabis was how the cartels got their start two generations ago: They brokered exports for the small, independent *campesino* (peasant) growers in Michoacán and also took the lion's share of the profits. But they soon consolidated control, forcing the independent growers almost entirely out of the export market. The new heartland of Mexican cannabis cultivation became the so-called Golden Triangle in the remote, rugged

backcountry of the Sierra Madre Occidental, where the states of Chihuahua, Durango and Sinaloa come together. This territory has been virtually colonized by the cartels, with the local Tarahumara and Huichol Indians forced to grow opium and cannabis for the syndicates in order to survive. They are given the usual choice—*plata o plomo*, silver or lead. What this means for the Indian peasants is simple: either enough money to feed their families or a gruesome death. Yet having to grow the stuff makes indigenous communities vulnerable to police raids as well as the aerial spraying of their lands with defoliants like paraquat.

Worse still are the conditions on the giant plantations under the direct control of the cartels' local bosses, known as *caciques*. These are located on the flatlands up on mesa tops (as opposed to the little plots hidden away deep in the canyons). The plantations actually employ slave labor and are the likely destination for farm workers kidnapped elsewhere

In Afghanistan, hashish and opium sales provide money for the Taliban.



in Mexico. Instead of making \$10 a day picking vegetables, these workers make nothing tending the cannabis, and instead are threatened with the extermination of their families if they try to flee.

The big cartels first emerged in the 1980s along the border cities, where they controlled the key *entrepôts* into the US. For a while, the Big Three were the Juárez Cartel, the Tijuana Cartel and the Gulf Cartel (based in Matamoros). Then the middle-level syndicates in Mexico's interior began to revolt, demanding a bigger share of the pie. The most successful was the Sinaloa Cartel, which started out as a satellite organization of the Tijuana Cartel but soon eclipsed it. When the Sinaloa Cartel started to move in on the Gulf Cartel's turf some 10 years ago, the Matamoros crime machine launched a paramilitary force called Los Zetas. Made up of Mexican Army veterans and even a few men from the feared elite counterinsurgency units of the Guatemalan military, the Zetas jacked up the

level of violence beyond anything seen in Mexico since the Revolution of 1910-19.

Today the Zetas fight with grenades and rocket launchers as well as assault rifles, and they're even producing their own armored vehicles in clandestine workshops in the border towns of Tamaulipas state. They have since turned on their former masters, waging war against the Gulf and Sinaloa cartels alike in a bid for supremacy.

Your Tax Dollars Kill in Colombia—Do Your Ganja Dollars, Too?

Colombian cartels have generally supplied the cocaine that the Mexicans fight and die over. Colombia has been at war since 1948, when a guerrilla movement first emerged in the mountains and jungles in an attempt to overthrow the government. But now the war is really over control of the narco trade.

The Colombian cartels also first emerged as marijuana syndicates back in the 1970s. In the '80s, these syndicates

morphed into cocaine cartels, as more and more of the countryside turned to coca cultivation—and, later, opium too. But Colombia continues to grow loads of cannabis, both for export and internal consumption, and the trade is still under control of ultraviolent mafias and armies.

The guerrillas of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) and their deadly enemies in the right-wing paramilitaries have long been locked in a struggle for control of the country's lucrative drug trade. The United Colombian Self-Defense Forces (AUC), the rightist paramilitary coalition, has committed countless massacres of *campesinos* suspected of supporting the guerrillas. Human rights groups like Amnesty International have documented how the AUC has collaborated with the same "official" Colombian armed forces that have received billions of dollars in US drug war aid during the past decade.

The AUC was a direct product of the old cocaine cartels of the '80s and '90s. The paramilitary network's late founding patriarch, Carlos Castaño, started out as an enforcer for Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel in the '80s. At that time, Colombia's drug trade was still dominated by the two giant cartels based in Medellín and Cali.

The cartels have historically collaborated with the paramilitaries against the guerrillas—basically because the FARC imposed taxes on the coca grown in their areas, whereas the cartels wanted a "free trade" zone under their exclusive control. When Colombia's National Police and the DEA jointly crushed the Medellín and Cali cartels in the '90s, this merely set off a bloody new scramble for mastery over the country's narco trade—this time between the AUC and the FARC. Both groups have massacred peasants who sold coca leaf to the other side. And even as the Colombian government battles the "narcoterrorists" (as the FARC are now called in official parlance)—terrorizing *campesino* communities and spraying coca and poppy fields with US-supplied glyphosate (which poisons both the land and water)—there is increasing talk of a new "Bogotá Cartel" that has been formed by corrupt members of the military and National Police.

Cannabis, though now in third place after cocaine and opium, remains an important element of the Colombian drug war. In February 2008, some 20 FARC guerrillas were killed in clashes with the army at the village of Chaparral, in the mountainous Tolima department (i.e., province). The high casualties were reportedly due to aerial bombardment of

rebel positions by Colombian warplanes. The National Police also announced the confiscation of 5.2 tons of cannabis that had allegedly belonged to the local FARC column. In other words, it appears that the Colombian military was bombing not just the rebels, but also the marijuana growers who had been dealing (willingly or not) with the FARC.

Central America: Echoes of Genocide

Central America, situated between Colombia and Mexico, is inevitably being drawn into the narco wars. In May of last year, 27 farm workers were massacred at a ranch in the jungle region of Petén. Many of the bodies were mutilated and dismembered

been finding more and more cannabis and opium plantations in recent years—especially in the zones along the Mexican border.

Afghanistan: Are You Smoking Taliban Hash?

Another place where cannabis has become mixed up in an actual shooting war is Afghanistan, where its production has ebbed and flowed with the tides of war for a generation now.

Afghanistan hasn't known peace since 1979, when a Soviet-backed coup turned the country into a Cold War battleground. The US began backing the mujahideen rebels in the '80s—despite the fact that the mujahideen had become massively

trade to fund their war, Islamic prohibitions notwithstanding.

A vigorous eradication campaign overseen by US and NATO troops is making some headway against opium, but lots of farmers are simply switching to cannabis, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime reports. The farmers themselves may not be Taliban supporters, and there are doubtless corrupt elements of the Afghan government that also have a hand in the dope trade. But the simple truth is that *any* illegal crop in a war zone will be seized upon as a clandestine means of raising money for guns. And illegality itself drives up the price, making it an irresistible lure for dirt-poor peasants struggling to survive. Afghan hashish is mostly available in Europe, but some makes its way to US markets as well.

Lebanon, West Africa, the Philippines

Afghanistan, Colombia and Mexico are extreme cases, but it's the same basic situation the world over. In the confused, multi-sided war in Lebanon in the 1980s, for example, every faction turned to the hashish and heroin trade to raise funds. The country's fertile Bekaa Valley was carved up into a patchwork of enclaves, each controlled by one of the warring militias that colonized the local *fellaheen* (peasants) to grow opium and cannabis for them. They also controlled clandestine ports on the Mediterranean coast where the finished heroin and hashish was exported. Eradication campaigns in the Bekaa—and, more importantly, the return of peace to Lebanon—have scaled back the drug trade there considerably, but the current Middle East crisis has brought Lebanon to the brink of war once again. The Assad regime in Syria, the patron of Hezbollah and other Lebanese factions, is now faced with destabilization and civil strife—and the violence is spilling over into Lebanon. Not surprisingly, European authorities have reported increased seizures of Lebanese hash in recent months.

It was the horrific conflict in West Africa in the 1990s that gave birth to the phrase "blood diamonds," as the extraordinarily brutal rebels in Liberia and Sierra Leone turned to contraband diamonds to fund their wars. Charles Taylor, the Liberian leader who also backed the rebel movement in neighboring Sierra Leone, was just sentenced to 50 years in prison for war crimes (including the use of child soldiers) by the UN's International Criminal Court. But here, too, cannabis was at issue—the region was growing plenty, and

Mexico is the biggest source of imported weed in America.



in the spectacularly gruesome style of Mexico's Zetas, and authorities said that a local Zeta cell called "Z-200" was responsible for the atrocity.

Ironically, some of the Zetas are reputedly veterans of Guatemala's counterinsurgency war in the '80s, which saw many such massacres of defenseless villages. A United Nations Truth Commission has documented that an actual genocide took place in Guatemala against the Mayan Indians during those years, so mass killings like those at Los Cocos ranch last May stir somber memories in a traumatized nation. And once again, cannabis is part of the equation: Guatemalan police, together with army troops and DEA agents, have

involved in the heroin and hashish trade to augment their war chest. Once Soviet troops withdrew in 1989, the mujahideen factions started fighting among themselves, and the ultra-fundamentalist Taliban exploited the chaos, taking power in 1996. The old mujahideen reorganized as the Northern Alliance and again turned to smack and hash to fund their new insurgency. Meanwhile, the puritanical Taliban banned opium and cannabis cultivation while in power (ironically winning accolades from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for doing so), but these days the tables have turned: The Taliban, who were overthrown in the US invasion of 2001, have become an insurgency—and have turned to the narco

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GRAND PURPLE DADDY	8-9 weeks	20/\$100	N/A
PIG OG	8-10 weeks	20/\$100	10/\$100
JOJO KUSH	7-8 weeks	20/\$100	N/A
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Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) guerrillas used *jamba* (marijuana) as well as amphetamines to disorient and indoctrinate abducted children and turn them into killers.

West Africa is now a key transshipment point for South American cocaine en route to Europe. This year's latest coup in Guinea-Bissau is being linked by Western diplomats to the international drug trade: Ousted President Raimundo Pereira apparently ran afoul of the military by promising to end a lucrative arrangement with drug traffickers.

The southern Philippine island of Mindanao is another major regional cannabis producer—and yet another war zone as well, in which the Philippine government (backed by US Special Forces troops) is waging a counterinsurgency campaign against Islamist guerrillas. The government claims that cannabis is being grown by the Abu Sayyaf militant group, with those busted for cultivation falling under suspicion of terrorism as well. A lot of innocent cannabis-growing peasants are probably being targeted in the conflict—and, just as likely, Abu Sayyaf does have a hand in the cannabis trade, to augment the money it makes from kidnappings for ransom.



African countries such as Liberia have become a transit hub for drugs moving to Europe.

government monopoly so as to undercut criminal networks.

But as the governments of Colombia and Mexico have repeatedly pointed out, the real problem is in the United States. The US government provides military aid under the pretext of the Drug War and presses regional governments to adopt hard-line prohibitionist policies. Meanwhile, US-based arms traffickers provide weapons and ammunition to the Mexican cartels and even the Colombian paramilitaries. And it is the legion of cocaine, heroin and (yes) cannabis consumers in the US whose demand drives the whole killing machine. Additionally, Mexican and Russian cartels are starting to move into domestic production in the US.

Ultimately, it is the prohibitionist policies that need to change in order to de-escalate the global narco wars, and that is going to take a lot of public pressure. Meanwhile, it all begins with awareness. So the next time you take a toke, think about where your ganja comes from, and especially the route it took to end up in your joint, pipe, blunt or bong. *

Bill Weinberg produces the websites GlobalGanjaReport.com and World-War4Report.com.

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The 25th Annual Can

Even as the storm clouds gather over Amsterdam, *High Times* throws an epic anniversary party. *By Nico Escondido*



Will the Dutch “weed pass” stop the good times in Amsterdam? *High Times* says, ‘Not in 2012!’

We get questions all the time on a wide range of cannabis-related topics. Lately, the questions are all about the Netherlands and the political climate there regarding weed. The questions (and their answers) go something like this:

Can tourists still smoke pot in Amsterdam?

Yes, they can ... until the spring of 2013.

Will there still be a Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam in 2012?

Hell, yeah! The 25th Annual Cannabis Cup is on and will be held at the Trouw venue near the Amsterdam city center.

Will this be the last High Times Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam?

Well, maybe. But we remain hopeful, because like the weather, the political climate is always changing.

Political Insanity

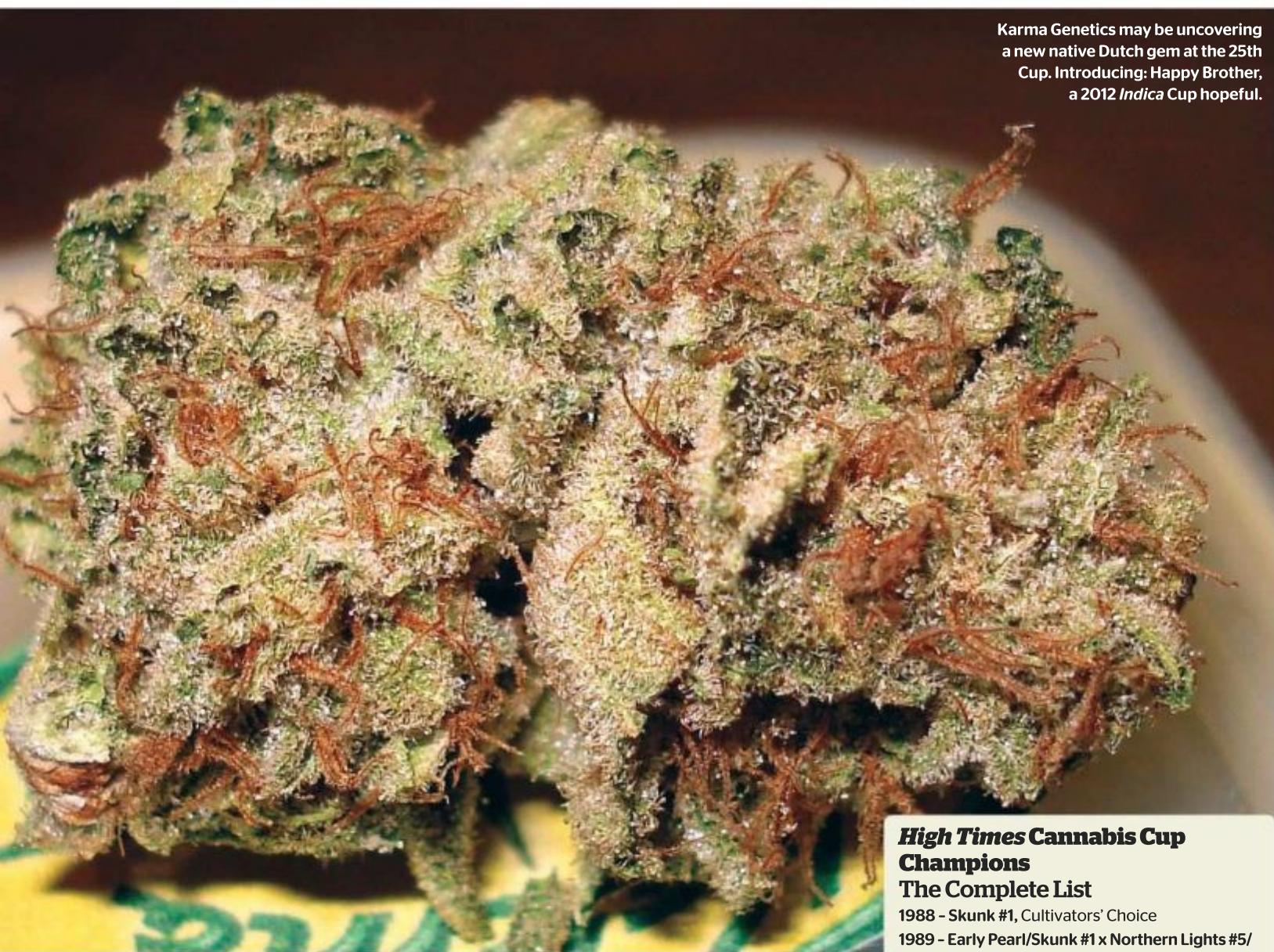
Only a country like the Netherlands would come up with a law to ban weed sales that features something as enticing as a *wietpas* (yes, it's pronounced “weed pass” in Dutch). But the *wietpas* is at the heart of the law that the Netherlands has enacted to ban non-residents from purchasing cannabis at coffeeshops—a tradition that has long stood as one of the hallmarks of Dutch tolerance and freethinking.

The *wietpas* has already gone into effect in the southern provinces of the country and has been met with severe resistance from Dutch locals. The policy is slated to take effect in the northern territories, including Amsterdam, in the spring of 2013. It will essentially require all coffeeshops to change their business model from public storefront to private

social club, forcing the country's citizens to register with the government in order to obtain the *wietpas* that will allow them to join a “club.”

So here's a quick look at the facts on this: The law was originally intended to keep “border-crossers” from neighboring countries from entering into Holland to buy cannabis legally and then carrying it back across the border to sell illegally in their country (thanks, Belgium and Germany). With a more conservative (and religious) government in power, the law quickly evolved to encompass the entire nation. However, those in the north—especially Amsterdam—neither want nor approve of the law. In fact, the Amsterdam city council and mayor are vehemently opposed, and when the law was first enacted in early 2012 in the south of Holland, the locals took to the streets in

Cannabis Cup Preview



Karma Genetics may be uncovering a new native Dutch gem at the 25th Cup. Introducing: Happy Brother, a 2012 *Indica* Cup hopeful.

protest, with rallies and even riots ensuing.

Coffeeshops in the south, rather than converting into private clubs, simply shuttered their doors and ended up putting the cannabis back onto the black market. Overnight, YouTube videos went viral showing young dealers taking to the street corners, demonstrating that they were the ones now holding the weed.

Then, shortly after 4/20, the conservative Dutch government, in the throes of its own financial crisis, collapsed (don't ask—it's a long story, and Holland's political system is vastly different from ours). This has rendered the national government seriously useless until a new election is held in August, the results of which were still a month away at the time this article was written. This election could very well reshape the political landscape and drastically alter the course of the *wietpas*

law altogether—so much so that its effects might never be felt in Amsterdam.

Still, that's the best-case scenario—and even if the election goes well, some observers insist that the law will take some time to fully repeal. So that's where things stand at the moment—meaning that while this won't be the last Cannabis Cup *ever*, it may be the last Cup held in Amsterdam for a while. Oh, and as fate would have it, it's also the Cup's 25th anniversary, so the theme this year is the "Founders' Cup," wherein we at *High Times* honor those who have come before us and paved the way for all the good things we have today. So get your ass over to Amsterdam this November and show your respect, share your love and, of course, party down with us one last time before the world as we know it (possibly) ends.

High Times Cannabis Cup Champions

The Complete List

- 1988 - **Skunk #1**, Cultivators' Choice
- 1989 - **Early Pearl/Skunk #1 x Northern Lights #5/Haze**, The Seed Bank
- 1990 - **Northern Lights #5**, The Seed Bank
- 1991 - **Skunk**, Free City
- 1992 - **Haze x Skunk #1**, Homegrown Fantasy
- 1993 - **Haze x Northern Lights #5**, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1994 - **Jack Herer**, Sensi Seed Bank
- 1995 - **White Widow**, The Green House
- 1996 - **White Russian**, De Dampkring
- 1997 - **Peace Maker**, De Dampkring
- 1998 - **Super Silver Haze**, The Green House
- 1999 - **Super Silver Haze**, The Green House
- 2000 - **Blueberry**, The Noon
- 2001 - **Sweet Tooth**, Barney's
- 2002 - **Morning Glory**, Barney's
- 2003 - **Hawaiian Snow**, The Green House
- 2004 - **Amnesia Haze**, Barney's
- 2005 - **Willie Nelson**, Barney's
- 2006 - **Arjan's Ultra Haze**, The Green House
- 2007 - **G-13 Haze**, Barney's
- 2008 - **Super Lemon Haze**, The Green House
- 2009 - **Super Lemon Haze**, The Green House
- 2010 - **Tangerine Dream**, Barney's
- 2011 - **Liberty Haze**, Barney's
- 2012 - **You decide!**

This is how cannabis competitions can start to become more than just a huge party or taking a Cup home (not that there's anything wrong with either)!



Science and technology now have a lasting place within Cannabis Cup competitions.

Where We're Headed

If you're a faithful reader of *High Times*, by now you've probably heard of the revolutionary changes we've made to how the Cannabis Cup competitions are scored, ranked and indexed (if not, see our past two Cup previews in *HT* #417 and #429). Aside from the Coffeeshop Cup—the one category that Cup-goers vote on directly—we also award Cups to seed companies and breeders in three distinct categories: *sativas*, *indicas* and hybrids, with the *sativa* and *indica* categories requiring more than 70 percent dominance of that genetic lineage in any given entry. (Our Medical Cannabis Cups in the US have a slightly different competition model.)

Currently dubbed the *HT Scorebook*, our scoring program has gone digital during the past year and outputs a total overall score using a specialized algorithm that incorporates both the judges' picks in various categories (on a scale of 1 to 5) as well as lab results that are also tallied by a scale programmed into the software. This cannabis scoring and ranking system is the first of its kind in the world and will become an invaluable resource for the cannabis community as the system progresses.

It is the hope of *High Times* to release this system for public use in the near

future—once the algorithms, software interface and overall system design are finalized through alpha and beta testing over the next year or so of Cup competitions. So what's the big deal, you may ask? Just imagine when the *HT Scorebook* is ready for distribution to every Cup-goer in Amsterdam. Imagine when thousands of users around the world can use it to accurately score and rank the strains they're smoking in their respective countries. Imagine when the lab results can be input into the system for every strain on Earth and medical users can make notes on the symptoms and ailments that are relieved by these various genetic lines. Imagine when this massive database can be used to make correlations and generate reports on strains, on treatments, on potencies—with all of those reports being specific to certain cities, or certain lineages, or certain illnesses. The possibilities are infinite.

This is the future of cannabis, and this is how cannabis competitions can start to become more than just throwing a huge party (not that there's anything wrong with that) or taking home a Cup. This is where the Cups can start to become a serious vehicle for change and improvement in the world. And yet we never would have reached this point without that first Cannabis Cup 25 years ago.

Yeah ... who would have thought?

A Few Good Places to Buy Weed

Sure, it seems odd to stipulate good places to buy herb in Amsterdam, but the widely held myth that all of the weed sold in coffeeshops is good weed is just that—a myth. During the Cannabis Cup, however, the coffeeshops do bring out their very best and also sell their official entries, which come from crops planned almost a year earlier. So here are a few recommended spots, old and new, worth a visit:

Amnesia: Located at Herengracht 133, this coffeeshop has one of the most laid-back and friendly atmospheres of any place in town. It's an affiliate of the acclaimed Barney's coffee-shop, which makes the battle over just who has the best marijuana a perennial joust. Memories of Amnesia's Top Dawg entry from 2009 still trump some of their latest award-winning entries, such as the Acapulco Gold (1st Place *Sativa* Cup, 2010) or their *indica*-heavy LSD strain (3rd Place *Indica* Cup, 2008). Either way, you can't buy bad weed here. Oh, and they've won a few Hash Cups, too.

Resin: Not exactly a newcomer, but after some changes in staff and management during the past few years, Resin is making huge new strides. With five-gram deals on herb and superb (albeit pricey) grams of ice-olator hash, this coffeeshop is quickly becoming a fan favorite. NYC Diesel is the top seller, but Resin also boasts Buddha's Blue Cheese and Sister—plus, for the savvy hash connoisseur, there may even be a "super melt" on the menu for the Cup this year. With a redone interior and a jungle-treehouse décor, this coffeeshop is a fun place to chill with friends.

The Green Place: Located right around the corner from the Red Light District on Kloveniersburgwal 4, The Green Place spares no expense when it comes to delivering some of the finest ganja in Amsterdam. With a plush, loungey vibe, soccer on the big screens and good music pumping out on the sound system, this is a well-known party spot for tourists and locals alike. The menu features some of the best Moroccan hash in town as well as the most popular US/UK strains currently on the market.

The Bushdoctor: Located near the Rembrandtplein on Thorbeckplein 28, the Bushdoctor is known for its fabled "key ring of hash," whereby patrons peruse more than 20 varieties hung in baggies on a giant key ring. Need we say more? Okay, we will: Aside from the hash, there are usually a few imported strains, some from as close by as the UK, others from more southerly countries such as Spain and Italy.



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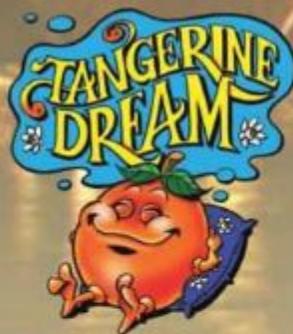
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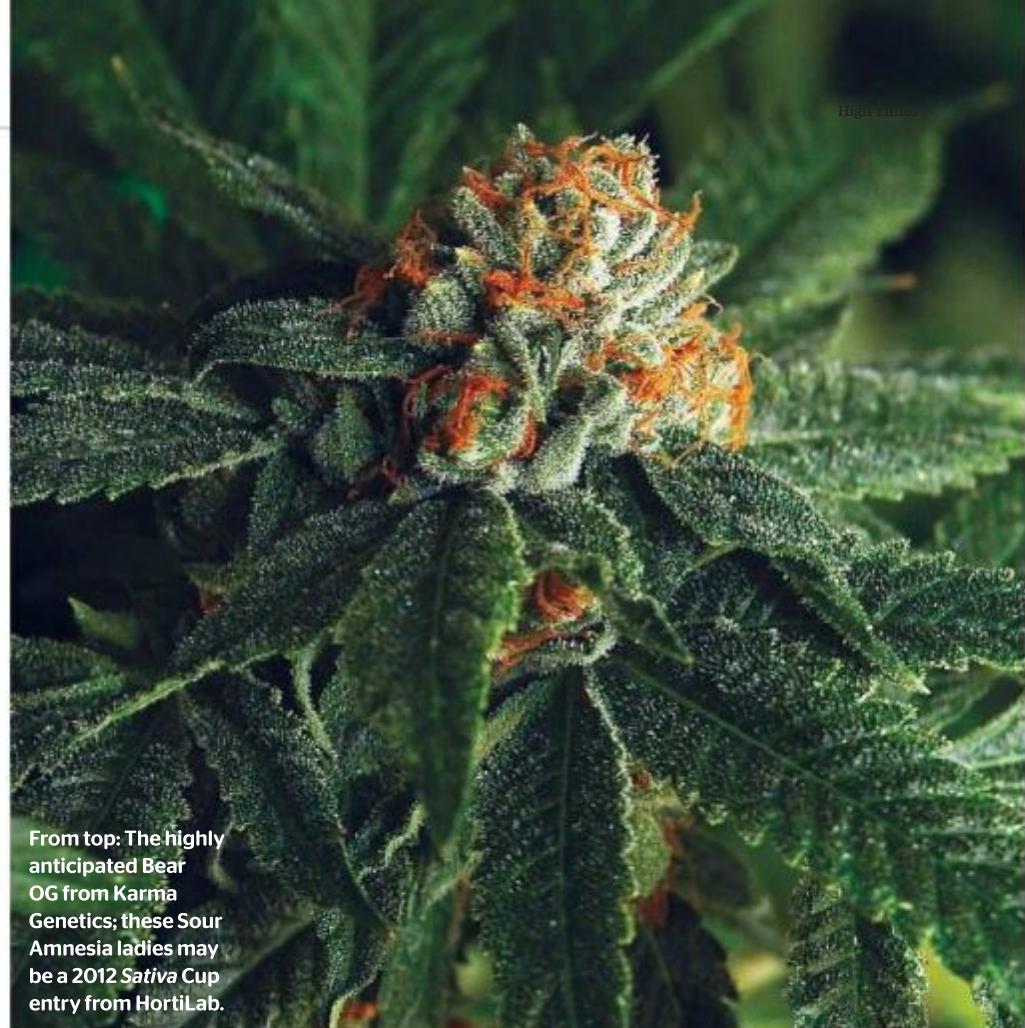
Seed Companies: Breeding New Horizons

One of the biggest accomplishments that 25 years of the Cannabis Cup has achieved is the establishment of Amsterdam as the true “genetic crossroads” of the world when it comes to cannabis. The first seed banks, seed companies and coffeeshops all had close ties to the very first Cup that *High Times* held here, way back in 1988. Today, separate categories exist just for those seed companies, while the Cup itself attracts breeders from all around the world. When you combine the diverse crowd that attends the Cup with the spirit and unity of the cannabis movement, the result is not only great friendships, but also the kind of partnerships and networking that breed new grow technology and equipment, new science and research, and, of course, the world’s best marijuana strains.

Two relative newcomers to the Cannabis Cup, seed companies HortiLab (first Cup appearance 2009, 1st Place *Indica* for StarBud) and Karma Genetics (first Cup appearance 2010, 3rd Place *Indica* for White OG) have taken this mission to heart and teamed up for a breeding program that will hopefully yield some of the world’s next best cannabis strains. The two companies are currently working on two *indica* seed lines, one bred by Karma Genetics and the other bred by the HortiLab crew.

Karma is charged with developing an *indica*-dominant hybrid of HortiLab’s award-winning StarBud and its own Happy Brother strain. The second line will be created by HortiLab and will cross its exclusive StarBud Sister with Karma’s Triple Kush male. The partnership—a shining example for all to follow—comes about because of a similar philosophy shared by the two companies about keeping genetics “open-source.” Beyond sharing strains, both Karma Genetics and HortiLab are committed to creating (and sometimes re-creating) fresh new varietals worldwide, a sentiment that undoubtedly stems from seeing the same handful of strains winning the Cup year after year. Yet both Karma Genetics and HortiLab have been able to win with new flavors and breeds, signaling a shift in the mindset of younger generations.

Here’s a sneak peek at the possible entries from both companies for the 2012 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam:



From top: The highly anticipated Bear OG from Karma Genetics; these Sour Amnesia ladies may be a 2012 Sativa Cup entry from HortiLab.

HortiLab 2012 Hopefuls:

Indica: StarBud Sister
Sativa: Either Sour Power or a Sour Amnesia (Amnesia x East Coast Sour Diesel)
Hybrid: Either Sour Pink Grapefruit (Sweet Pink Grapefruit clone from BC x East Coast Sour Diesel) or Sour Star (StarBud x East Coast Sour Diesel)

Karma Genetic 2012 Hopefuls:

Indica: Happy Brother (clone-only, a Dutch coffeeshop strain)
Sativa: Big Sur Holly
Hybrid: Bear OG



Where to Go for Munchies

Burger Bar: It’s tough to find a good burger in Europe, but in Amsterdam all you have to do is head for the Burger Bar closest to your favorite coffeeshop (there are three in the city center) and you’re all set. Oh, and the one at Wammesstraat 21 serves alcohol, too.

Wok to Walk: Hands down one the best fast-food Chinese places on Earth, Wok to Walk is conveniently located

right next to pretty much every coffeeshop in Amsterdam (or at least so it seems).

The Poffertjes Stand, Leidseplein: Unfortunately, poffertjes are a seasonal treat. Fortunately, it’s a holiday-season treat, and the Cup is in November! Lucky stoners—if you have a real sweet tooth when stoned, these fried dough balls covered in melted chocolate and ice cream are the be-all and end-all. And if you’re on a date with a lady, you get major “joint” points for this score.

Casa di David: Pricey and hard to get into (you’d better make reservations now), this classy spot is the best Italian (and maybe all-around) restaurant in Amsterdam, picturesquely located above the canals on Singel.

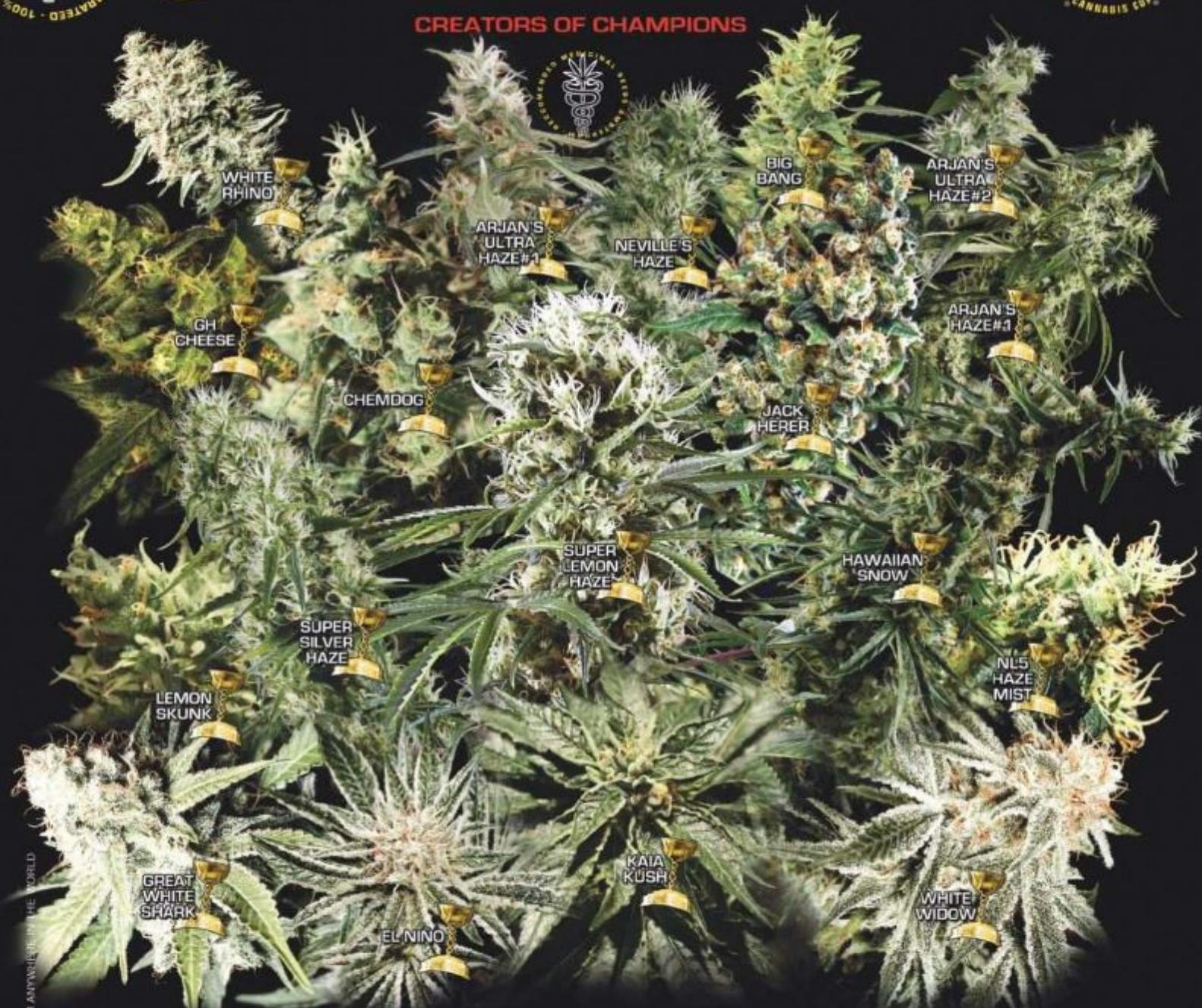
Wagamama’s: The perennial fave of the *High Times* staff, this Asian-beer-hall-style restaurant serves up noodles, rice and big beers galore. Located across from the Hard Rock Café adjacent to the Leidseplein.

THE WORLD'S LEADING HIGH!

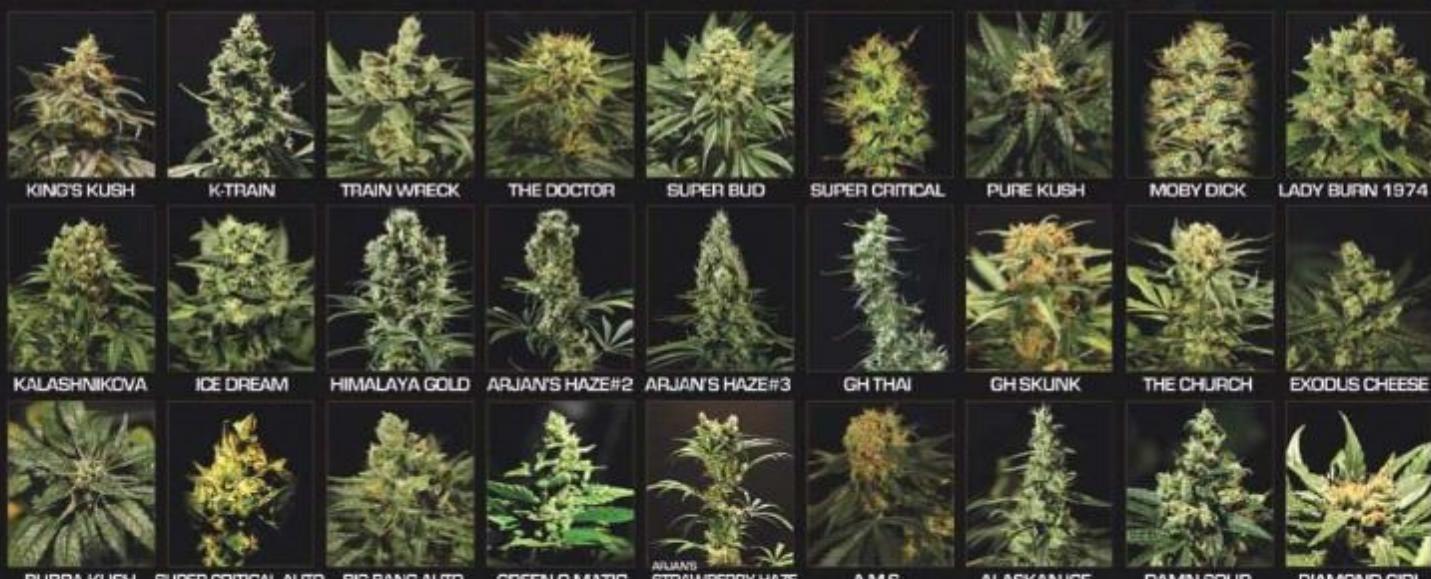


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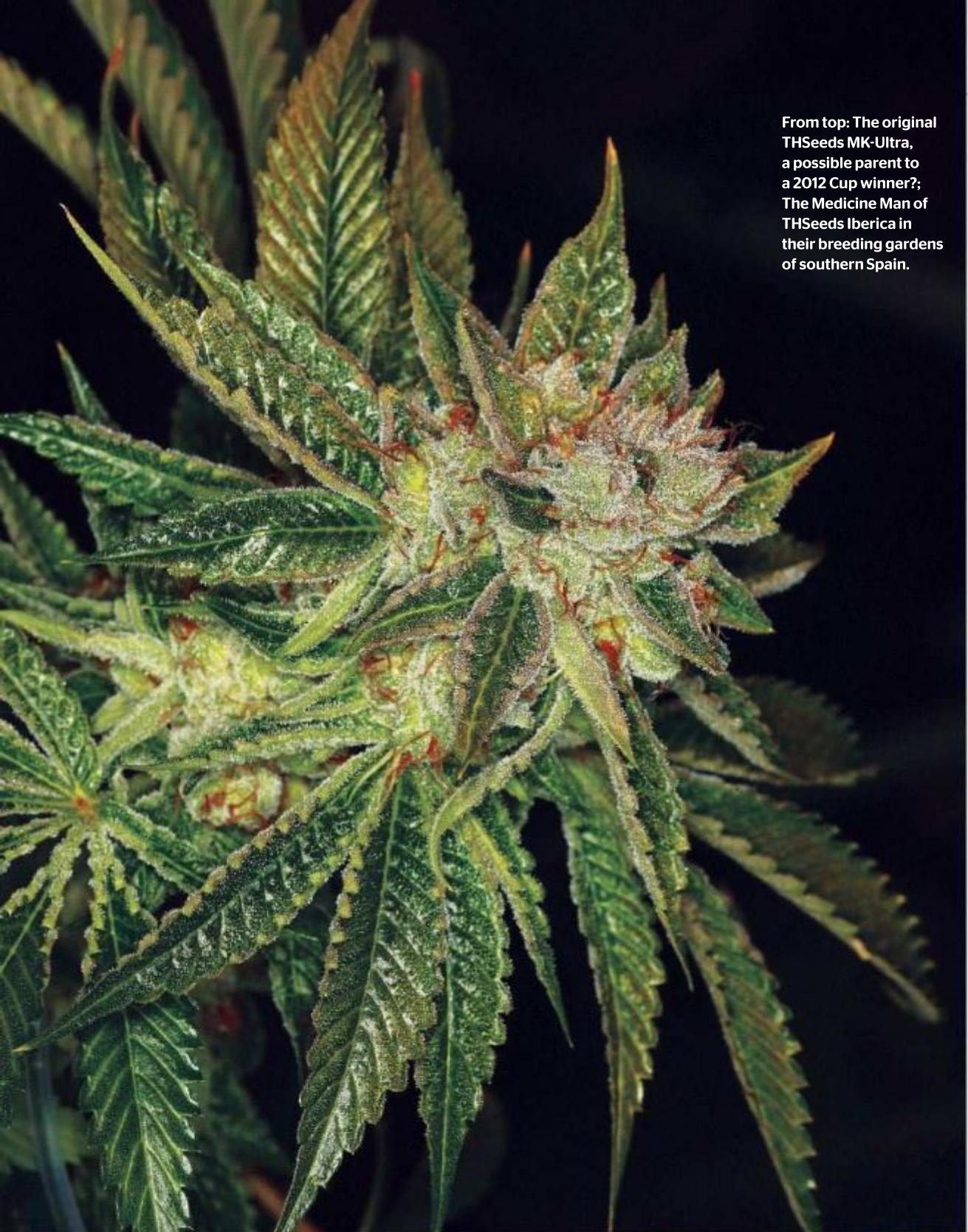
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From top: The original THSeeds MK-Ultra, a possible parent to a 2012 Cup winner?; The Medicine Man of THSeeds Iberica in their breeding gardens of southern Spain.

A New Look at T.H.Seeds

The seed-company giant and hemp-clothing extraordinaire (under the separate but affiliated brand of Hemp Hoodlamb) has created a US branch in Colorado headed by founder and breeder Adam Dunn. The separation leaves the European division—currently known as T.H.Seeds Iberica—as a stand-alone entity to pursue projects separately from its American counterpart.

The move has caused a shift in operations for T.H.Seeds Iberica, which has moved its breeding base to the more friendly confines of Spain. According to "The Medicine Man," a manager at T.H.Seeds Iberica, although the Bublegum strain remains the top seller, MK-Ultra isn't far behind. Also, the breeding projects in the South of Europe have resulted in a few new strains that the team hopes to enter into competition in Amsterdam this November. Here's a look at their possible lineup:



T.H.Seeds Iberica 2012 Hopefuls:

Indica: Ultra Sour
(MK-Ultra x Sour Diesel)
Sativa: Wreckage (S.A.G.E. x Trainwreck)
Hybrid: Empire \$laves
(Under Dawg x Roof 95)

Awesome Bars You Can Drink & Smoke Weed In

Many visitors to Amsterdam tend to forget that even in this city of sensi sin, there are still rules and etiquette that need to be kept in mind. For one thing, most coffeeshops are not permitted to serve alcohol, with a handful of exceptions. But there are certainly bars where you can smoke weed—and some are even located right next door to their own coffeeshop (talk about convenient ... and smart). Here's a short list of places to spend some long nights:

Batavia: Located on Prince Hendrikkade, right across from Centraal Station and around the corner from Stone's Coffeeshop, this is a great place for an English breakfast, a pint of Guinness and a fat spliff. Go downstairs and get a view of the canal while you chill.

The Winston: Located at Warmoesstraat 129, right in the heart of the Red Light District, this nightclub sells alcohol, not weed, but it's surrounded by coffeeshops and allows patrons to light up while drinking, lounging on the patio or shooting pool. It's also a hot nightspot with great DJs and music.

Hunter's Bar & Coffeeshop:

Located at Warmoesstraat 35 near Centraal Station, this is one of the few coffeeshops that does serve alcohol. On top of that, they have AC for summertime visitors and boast more than 18 strains of goodness to go along with their long bar. Chem Dog, Kali Mist and Blue Cheese are a few of the popular names on their menu.

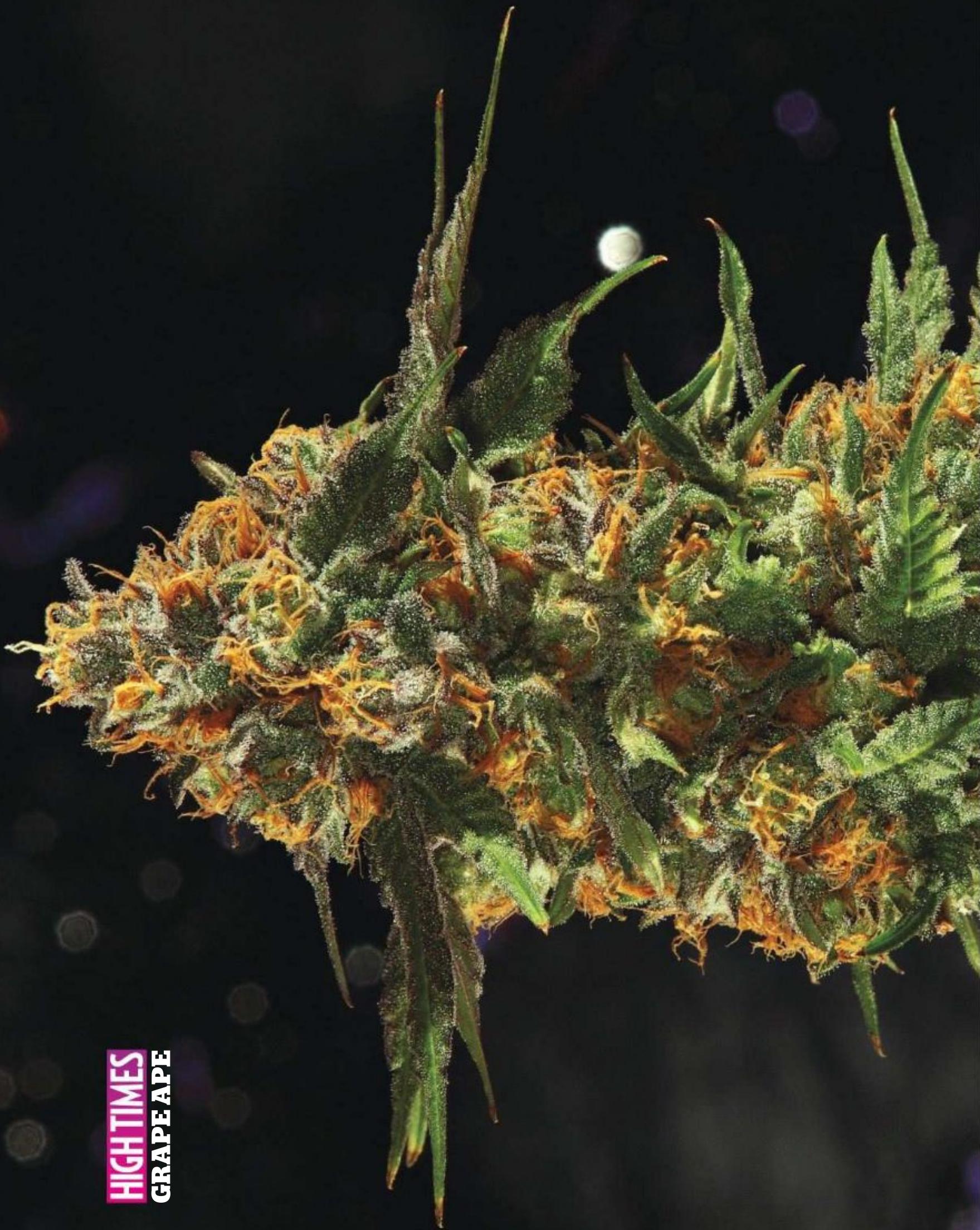
The Bulldog Café Mack:

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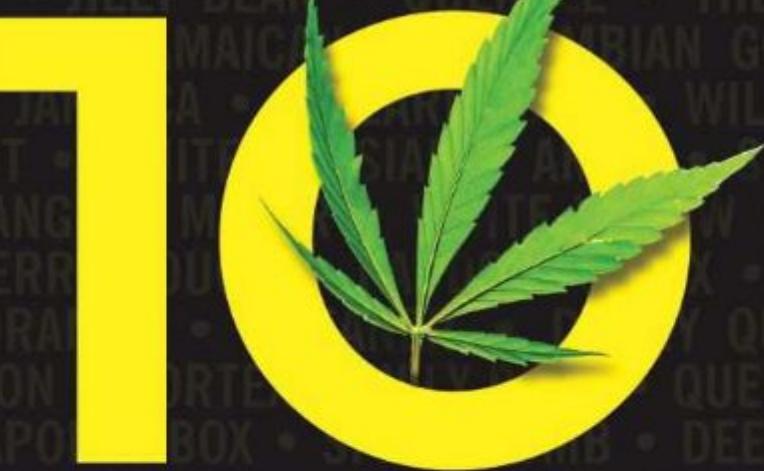




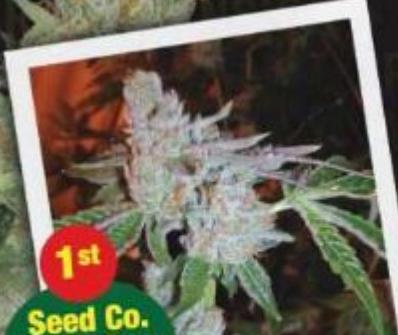
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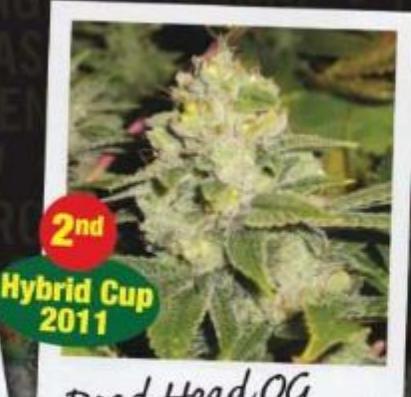


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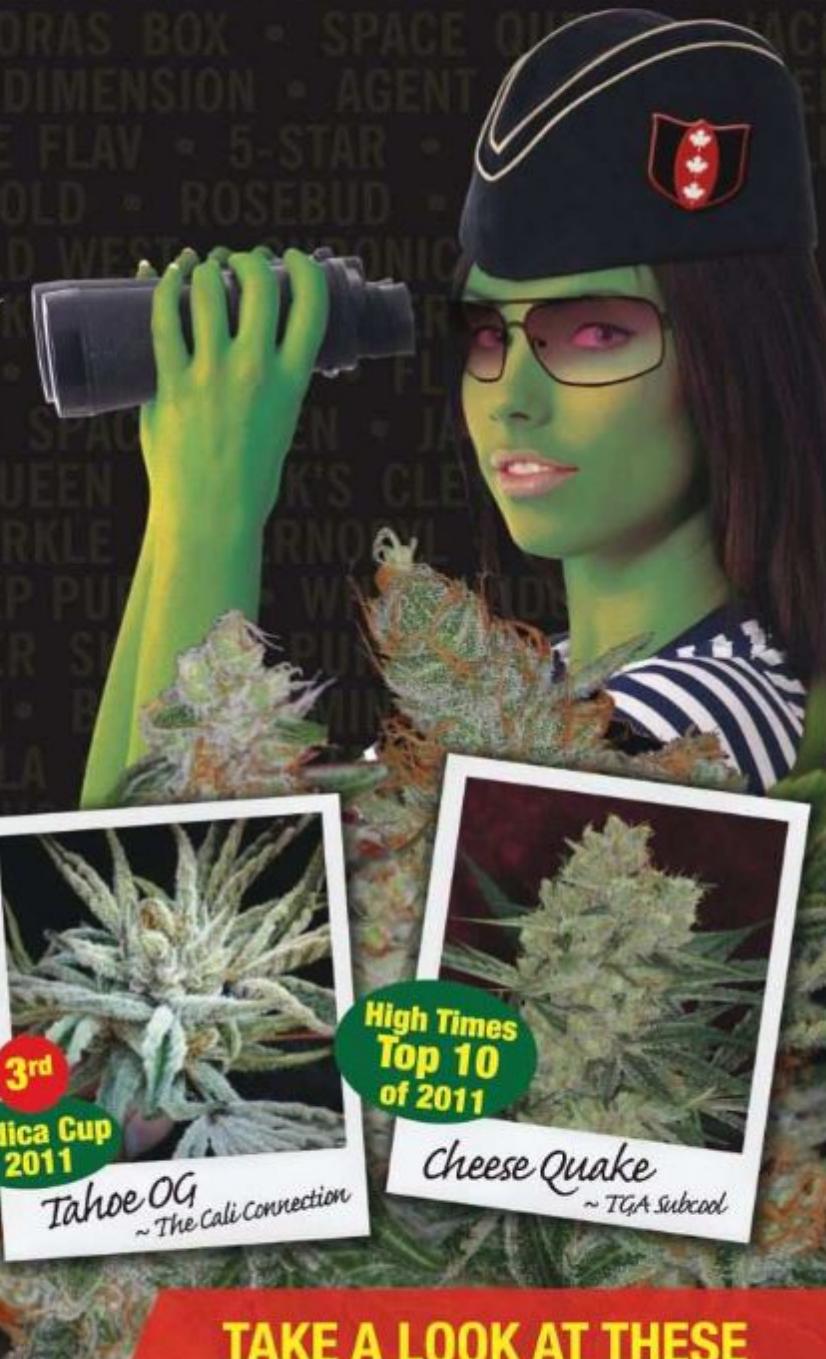


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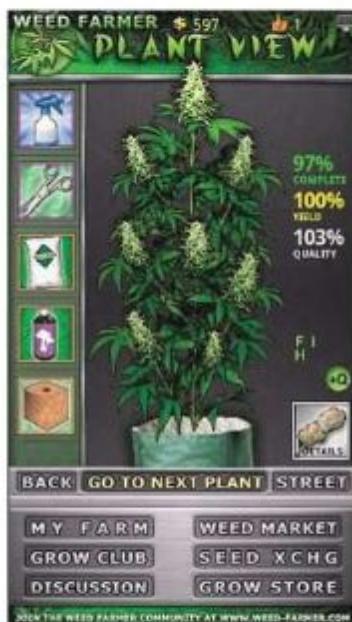
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WEED ON THE WEB

High Times breaks down the hottest cannabis-related apps on the market.

At any given moment, a person's smartphone could contain a dog whistle, an auto-tuner or an index of completely unusable pickup lines. And while such a trend might cause many to contemplate the downfall of civilization, the *High Times* technology department decided to investigate apps that could actually prove useful.

As it turns out, the market has expanded to include a number of helpful and entertaining marijuana-related apps, whether you're looking for great pot, hoping to grow your own or just want to know your rights. Here's our breakdown of the top pot apps. *By Mike Hughes*

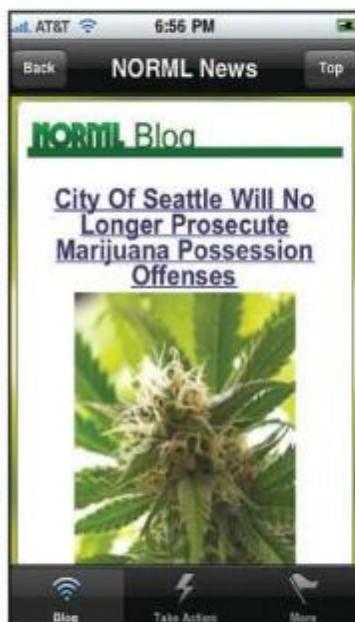


Weed Farmer

Platform: Android

Price: \$4.95

Most professional cultivators will tell you growing great ganja isn't a game. But the creators of **Weed Farmer** would beg to differ. **Weed Farmer** allows users to grow 30 different strains of virtual pot—putting you in charge of every stage of growth, from germination to flowering to harvest. In order to be successful, users must take into account a host of actual cultivation issues such as garden pests, fungi, nutrient deficiencies, growing mediums, water supply and, of course, lighting. So while it's a virtual world in which you compete against highly skilled digital cultivators, you may also be learning a bit about growing real pot in the actual world.



NORML News

Platform: iPhone/Android

Price: 99¢

Since 1970, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) has been at the forefront of empowering pot smokers everywhere by advocating for our favorite plant and informing the public of its benefits. Now you too can feel empowered with **NORML News**. Not only does **NORML News** allow you to get the latest pot headlines, read marijuana-related articles and access info on pending cannabis-related legislation, but it also connects you to NORML's Twitter feed and YouTube videos. And keep an eye out for an upcoming NORML app that will include state and federal pot laws, drug-testing info and defense attorney listings.

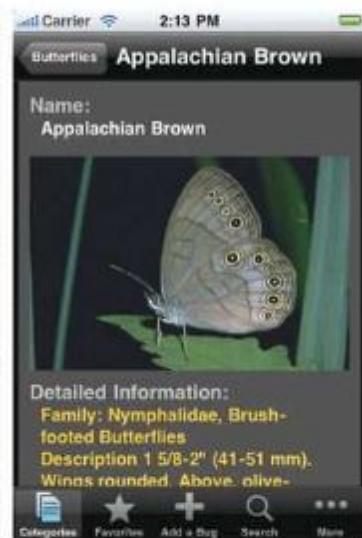


Leafly

Platform: iPhone/Android

Price: Free

This app allows users to browse through more than 16,000 reviews of more than 500 marijuana strains. And if that's not enough, you can also refine your search with a filter function that helps you narrow down your choice by the strain's effect—which means if you're looking for an *indica*-dominant strain to help you sleep, or an uplifting *sativa* to get you through that game of Frisbee Golf, you can find it here. After you've decided which strain is best for you, **Leafly** helps you locate the bud of your dreams with a handy map of local dispensaries. The app also provides reviews posted by medical cannabis patients as well as up-to-date menus. And if you follow a particular dispensary, you'll receive listings of the daily specials, so you can jump when they slash prices on the Tahoe OG!



what you're dealing with in order to eliminate the nuisance. This is where the **Bugs and Insects** app comes in. With a database of more than 900 common pests, you're sure to find the pesky critters putting holes in your fan leaves or pooping on your plants. Of course, many of the bugs and insects in this app's database are not cannabis-specific (it's unlikely that you have an unidentified dung-beetle problem). However, with an excellent search feature based on terms and descriptions, you're likely to find what's causing the problem.

Ganja Guide

Platform: iPhone

Price: 99¢

Marketed as an all-inclusive pot app, **Ganja Guide** offers a little something for everyone. For the casual smoker, the app features step-by-step instructions on basics like rolling a joint, cleaning a bong and even (if you're feeling creative) making a pipe. For the more serious toker, the app includes a guide with more than 500 strains as well as a checklist and rating system so users can keep track of their faves. **Ganja Guide** also boasts a marijuana etiquette archive, a dictionary of cannabis terms and a pot cookbook with more than 30

Bugs and Insects

Platform: iPhone

Price: 99¢

Garden pests are the bane of most cultivators' existence—so easy to acquire and yet so hard to eradicate. The first step in stopping these growroom invaders is identification: You have to know



"gourmet recipes"—plus the grow guide contains tips on germination, growing locations and more. It even comes with an all-important weight converter.



Stop & Frisk Watch

Platform: Android (iPhone coming soon)

Price: Free

Recently, the highly suspect stop-and-frisk policy of the New York Police Department was exposed as a racially biased means of running young minorities through the system. And while many NYC officials still insist the policy helps keep the city safe, Gov. Andrew Cuomo is making efforts to curtail the shameful practice by decriminalizing the display of pot in public view. Nonetheless, the stop-and-frisks continue and, in many cases, go unreported. Fortunately, the New York Civil Liberties Union has created an innovative app that allows users to record incidents of stop-and-frisk (by stealthily

pushing a button on the phone's frame). The app also allows users to report incidents (even if they weren't recorded) and has a function that sends an alert when a stop-and-frisk is reported in the vicinity. The app is available in both English and Spanish.



Unit Conversion Free

Platform: iPhone

Price: Free

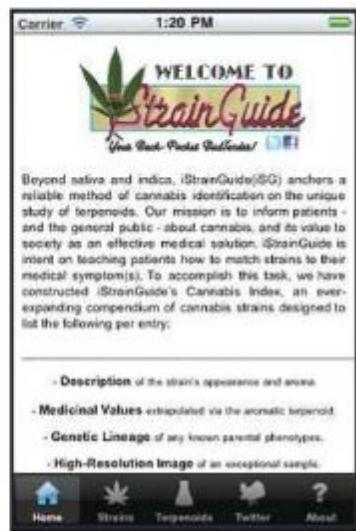
Some smokers and growers are blessed with great mathematical minds. Others ... well, not so much. But fear not: the **Unit Conversion** app is an excellent option if you're having a bit of trouble figuring out how many grams are left in that quarter-pound you picked up last week. This easy-to-use app handles all types of conversions (weight, currency, temperature, volume, power, energy, etc.) and even contains two calculator options, standard and scientific (though the scientific calculator is available only in the paid version). With the **Unit Conversion** app, you can even save settings to access your most frequently used features and program buttons for a fast recall of a particular unit pairing. As an added bonus, the currency-conversion rates are updated live—so you'll never get short-changed in Canada again!

iStrainGuide 2 Full

Platform: iPhone

Price: 99¢

iStrainGuide 2 welcomes marijuana enthusiasts to move



"beyond sativa and *indica*" and "become your own cannabis expert." With an index of hundreds of strains, as well as a terpenoid chart and close-up pot pics, this app aims to make you your own budtender. While not as well received as the earlier free version, **iStrainGuide 2** boasts a collection of strains with info on appearance and aroma, medicinal value and genetic lineage. Though cannabis connoisseurs might find the listings a bit mundane (i.e., Big Kahuna: "These elegant nuggets are a mosaic of light and emerald green with tan-gelo-colored pistils and custard-yellow trichomes"), those looking for a basic strain reference guide will have plenty to delve into.



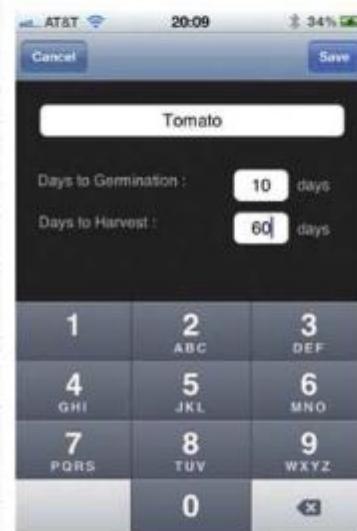
Harborside Health Center

Platform: iPhone/Android

Price: Free

Harborside Health Center has recently come under heavy fire from the Feds despite being one of the most state-of-the-art,

innovative medical marijuana dispensaries in the country. But owner Steve DeAngelo remains undeterred by the crackdown, vowing to help his patients "as long as he draws breath." Now Harborside is offering an app—serving both the Oakland and San Jose locations—that provides users with an extensive menu of pot products (along with photos and descriptions), as well as access to Harborside's Twitter feed of new strains and clones. The app also lists free growing classes, holistic health-care services, and the latest from the world of weed with a pot-specific news feed.



GardenLog

Platform: iPhone

Price: 99¢

Not every grower takes immaculate notes on their garden. This can become an issue when attempting to troubleshoot a deficiency or remember what you did for that last crop that turned out so well. **GardenLog** helps users keep track of when they planted, how long the seedlings took to germinate and how many days remain until flowering. There's also an option to add photos and dates for every stage of growth for future reference. The app even graphs the growth patterns of different strains throughout the year, allowing users to compare the flowering times of their favorite buds and make informed decisions on what to grow and when.



Americans for Safe Access

Platform: iPhone (Android coming soon)

Price: Free

Americans for Safe Access

(ASA) has long been at the forefront of the medical marijuana movement. The advocacy group empowers pot patients and activists by shining a light on cannabis-related injustices across the country. In an ever-evolving industry (and one that's often under attack by the benighted Feds), ASA's app aims to update

users on pot politics, science, law and community action. You'll have access to all of ASA's programs and projects, plus a guide to local businesses that support medical marijuana. The app also includes a legal hotline, ways to get involved in the medical marijuana movement or share your personal story, and an advocacy news feed.

Weed Strains 3D

Platform: iPhone/Android

Price: Free

Weed Strains 3D offers a somewhat novel approach to the standard strain-guide app.

Dubbed "the definitive marijuana resource," **Weed Strains 3D** boasts more than 113,000 reviews on upwards of 10,000 strains. Users upload their pot photos and review different kinds of kind, as well as chat on a social network comprising hundreds of thousands of like-minded tokers. And here's the kicker: Some of the app's 42,000 bud shots are in 3D, allowing users to "spin



and play with the interactive 360-degree flower views." **Weed Strains 3D** also provides cannabis basics (how *sativas* and *indicas* differ, how to roll joints and blunts, etc.), and there's even a cookbook section with various marijuana edibles recipes. While not the best app for the serious cannabis cultivator, **Weed Strains 3D** does provide high-quality stoner entertainment. Did we mention you can spin the pics?

Guidebook

Platform: iPhone/Android

Price: Free

From the original pot pilgrimage in Amsterdam, to sensi-cities like Seattle and San Fran, *High Times* now hosts an incredible five Cups a year! In addition to each region's best cannabis, these events feature informative seminars, raging VIP concerts and a must-see awards ceremony. But keeping track of all there is to do amidst the ubiquitous haze can be difficult. That's where the **Guidebook** app comes in. The app contains a detailed schedule of events, maps of the expo and surrounding area, a build-your-own schedule feature, social media sharing, a photo module and much more. *

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ENDLESS SUMMER

Learn to maintain a perpetual harvest outdoors using a greenhouse.

By McDank



Many growers underestimate the rewards to be reaped by the practice of maintaining a perpetual harvest all year long. Not only can you ensure a consistent supply of cannabis for your patients, but you'll also be able to increase overall yields and spread out your workload.

In order to harvest four times throughout the year, you'll absolutely need a greenhouse and a location in a mild to moderate climate that receives sunshine for more than nine months. Also, you'll want to use supplemental lighting and a dedicated room for mother plants. During a typical year on the Central Coast of California, many growers harvest a full-season crop in the fall as well as greenhouse harvests in the winter, early spring and midsummer (using light deprivation techniques).

Your greenhouse can be as big or as small as you like; either a store-bought greenhouse kit or a do-it-yourself setup will be sufficient. Building two greenhouses will allow you to further maximize your overall outdoor yield.



A trellis helps keep plant tops from sagging below canopy level.



Beginning the Season

Your first step toward a perpetual outdoor harvest is to take cuttings from your full-season plants while they're in the vegetative stage, usually at the end of July or early in August (depending on when your particular strain begins to stretch and pre-flower). These clones will be your genetic stock for next year's outdoor season, as well as for "off-season" harvests from the greenhouse. Root these clones in pots that hold 2 gallons of soil or more. Try FoxFarms Ocean Forest mixed in a 1:1 ratio with Happy Frog (adding a handful of worm castings), and also top-dress the mix with a high-nitrogen guano or compost tea if the plants look needy while vegetating.

By late fall, when your full-season plants are being harvested and your trim scene is getting underway, the first generation of clones should be about 1.5 to 2 feet tall. While these clones are still vegging, "top" the plants by pruning to increase the amount of large colas each one will produce. When topping, shape the plant into a wide bush, significantly increasing your overall yield. Using bamboo stakes or tomato cages will help support the plants as they grow.

Second Generation

During the fall, take cuttings from the first generation of clones. It's important to create extra space for humidity domes in the mother room so the clones are warm and safe. Again, root these clones in 2-gallon pots. Next, turn your attention to the first generation of clones, which by now are ready to be transplanted from their original pots and moved into the greenhouse.

In the Greenhouse

First, transplant several dozen of the first-generation clones into 7-gallon pots. (Containers made of "air-root pruning" fabric are recommended.) The greenhouse typically provides about 10°F of insulation from the outdoor temps, but on nights when the temperature dips below 40°F, you'll need a small electric heater in the greenhouse. Keep the greenhouse temperature between 70°F to 76°F and be extra-careful to check on those cold winter nights. This generation of plants will be your winter crop, and depending on the length of flowering for your particular genetics, you could be harvesting again before Christmas!



Early Spring Harvest

By the holiday season, the second generation of cuttings will be about 1.5 to 2 feet tall and ready for transplanting into the 7-gallon pots. Before transplanting, however, these plants are cloned again, creating a third generation. The second generation can be moved into the greenhouse to continue growing for an early spring harvest, and it's helpful to keep some of these plants as dedicated mothers if you have the space.

This early spring crop should be ready to harvest by mid-March to early April—around the time when veteran outdoor growers begin preparing for their full-season crop. You still have your third generation of clones, which by now have reached the 2-feet-tall transplanting stage. You'll need to take cuttings from these for a fourth generation of plants, which can be used for either the full-season crop or another greenhouse harvest.

At this point in early spring, you are faced with two choices for the timing of your ongoing perpetual harvest cycle: You can either harvest your third generation in late spring (before the days grow too long to induce flowering), or you can continue to let this generation vegetate and use light deprivation techniques to harvest a later crop in midsummer. If you've built two greenhouses, you can even do both and squeeze in another harvest.

Using Supplemental Lighting

In late April, add supplemental lighting to your greenhouse so that clones can be placed outdoors earlier and you don't have to worry about triggering the flowering stage too soon. You want 16 hours of light per day, so as the days grow longer, you can reduce the supplemental lighting to just the amount needed to fill the extra hours before sunrise. Set your lights to turn on at 3 a.m. in the early spring and shut off an hour after sunrise. As the days progress, the sun rises earlier and sets later, so supplemental lighting isn't needed as much. Use the so-called "temporary string lights" that are popular on construction sites, with 26-watt "bright" or "daylight" compact fluorescent (CF) bulbs installed. Line the frame of the greenhouse with 100 feet of these string lights, making sure each bulb is in a prime setting for maximum light coverage before using zip-ties to

From top: A vegged clone ready for transplant; supplemental lighting helps on overcast days; large containers make for bigger plants.

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secure them in place. Consider investing in a high-quality timer, since it's no fun losing clones to pre-flower because of a faulty digital timer.

It's important to make sure young, vegetating plants are on a day/night schedule equal to that of the Sun when they're transplanted; otherwise, you will induce early flowering. Covering the greenhouse with a tarp at night is also a good idea, since it will keep the supplemental lighting from attracting any unwanted attention.

Light Deprivation Harvest

By early June, the fourth generation of clones is ready to be transplanted into 7-gallon pots and moved into the greenhouse for a light deprivation crop. Your plants for the full outdoor season should already be transplanted, so it's time to get an early harvest ready during the "dry times" of midsummer.

Light deprivation techniques achieve a harvest when the days are longest and any chance of rainy fall weather is still far away. The process of light deprivation can be time-consuming and labor-intensive, involving strict adherence to a regular schedule of covering and uncovering the greenhouse (at 7 a.m.,



This greenhouse will produce many pounds per harvest.

the tarp comes off; at 7 p.m., it goes back on). It is absolutely necessary to ensure that the plants receive only 12 hours of light or the whole crop will fail. Any light leaks during the dark hours can trigger hermaphroditic genes in your plants.

Since you're covering the greenhouse with a thick tarp (panda plastic works great!), you must have a ventilation system

set up. Multiple fans will be required to keep down the humidity and heat. If all goes well, your light-deprived greenhouse crop will be ready to harvest by late July or early August, depending on the strains chosen. Your big, beautiful, full-season plants will still be growing, and it will be time to take more clones and begin the perpetual-harvest cycle all over again. *

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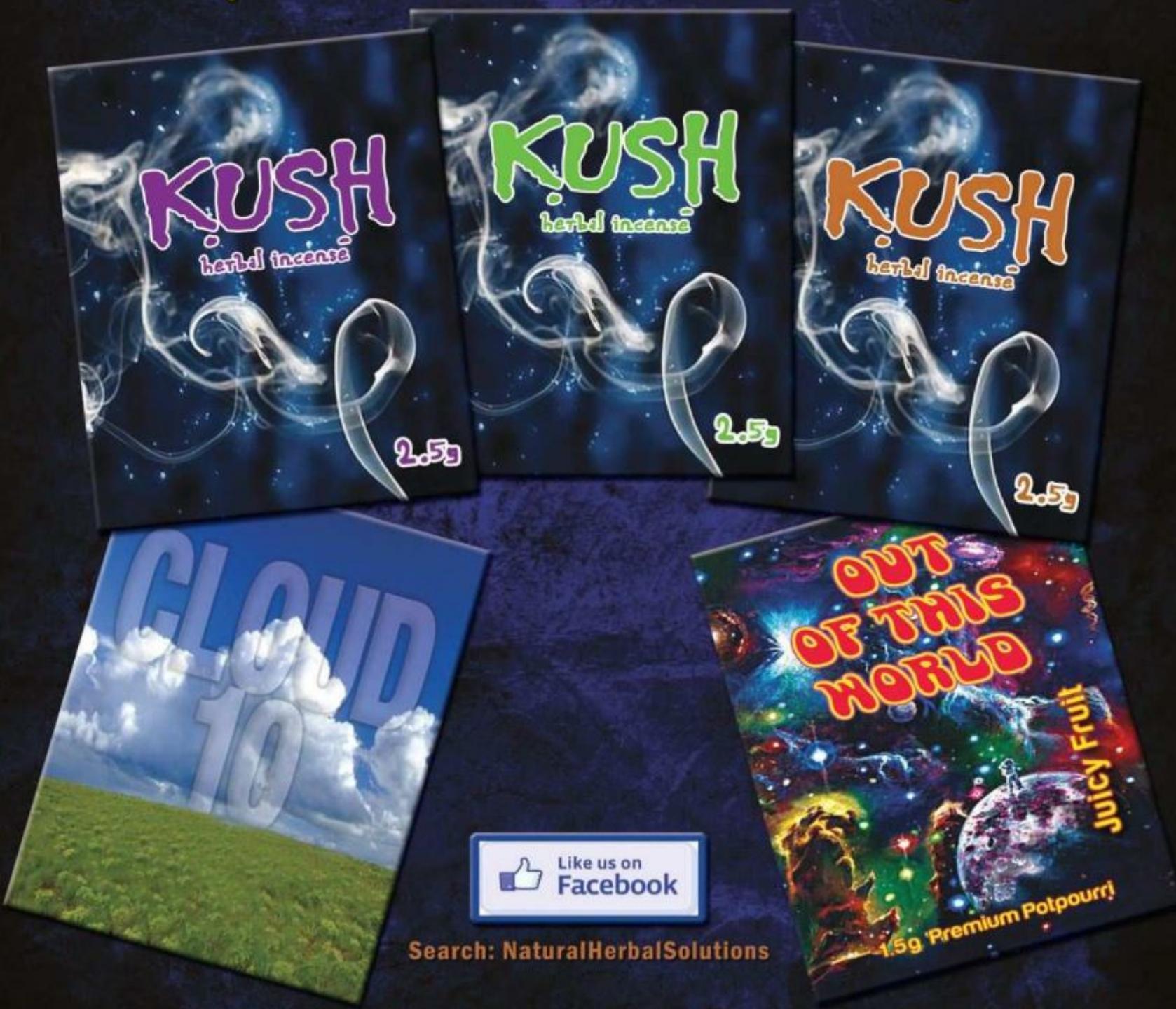
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The High Times Vaporizer Pen Buyer's Guide

Compiled by the High Times Editorial Staff

Since our first vaporizer buyer's guide last year (September '11), a plethora of new pen-sized vapes have hit the market—offering cannabis consumers a stealthy, convenient way to get high in almost any location or situation. But with so many options, how can John Q. Stoner know which ones are worthy of their cash and stash, and which ones are worthy of the trash? Well, fear not, loyal readers—that's where we come in. Our diligent staff has reviewed and rated (on a scale of 1 to 5) 15 top vapor pens so that you can get ripped without getting ripped off. We've provided vital specs on each of the following devices and judged them based on seven criteria: affordability, durability, versatility, high, stealth, health and ease of refill. But first, some general info

Some of these products are listed for use with "glycerin only." This refers to concentrates that are dissolved in a base solution—usually propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin—that acts as a hygroscopic (water-attracting) component to transform the solution into a vapor when heated. The heating element responsible for vaporizing the substance is called an atomizer. If the atomizer is integrated into a metal cartridge or plastic/glass tank as a single unit, it's known as a cartomizer.

There are two basic heating methods used for vaporizing: convection and conduction. In convection heating, the substance never touches the heating element; instead, it's added to a "polyfill" medium, and then air heated by the element passes through it, releasing the active ingredients. Convection systems usually incorporate a cartridge rather than a tank.

With conduction heating, the substance to be vaporized is placed on a metal element that is then heated to release the active ingredients. These types of vaporizers generally consist of a wick (usually silica) and a metal filament or coil (made of nickel, aluminum or steel), often encased in a small bowl (typically ceramic) and positioned in the center of a chamber or tank. These systems may produce smoke if you dry-burn them, so it helps to soak the wick with concentrate first, either by filling the tank with solution or applying a dab and letting it drip down. Accessing the wick tank often requires prying off a small plastic lid, which is used to contain the glycerin solution. If you're using more solid concentrates (such as wax, bud, etc.), the plastic lid should remain off.

Since many of these products operate from the same base unit (powered by a lithium ion battery), they not only look extremely similar but also have interchangeable parts and chargers. For the purposes of this review, we'll refer to all of these as "standard" components. It's worth noting that, like most electronics, all of these standard units are manufactured in China. We'd also like to point out that while the materials used to make these products were taken into account in our judging, we did not test them for their effects on the user's health—only their performance.

However, most of these units have been tested and approved by the FDA (for use with nicotine in e-cigarettes) and supposedly present no health issues pertaining to their components. Nevertheless, the old saying applies here—*buyer beware*: Regardless of which device you choose, read the instructions carefully to ensure safe and effective usage, and fully charge the battery unit before first use to establish long battery life. Good luck ... and happy vaping!

Atmos Raw

The device at the top of our list alphabetically also happens to be at the top of the ratings. Of all the pens we tested, the Atmos Raw was the only one to rate a perfect score—almost unanimous 5s all across the board. It had the easiest pull and clearest taste, with one judge even commenting that it was "the closest a pen has come yet to doing a dab." The fact that you can use it for flowers as well as concentrates without having to change the tank makes it one of the most versatile units. Our only criticism was that the power button was a little too stealthy—it's more difficult to locate than those on other pens. All things considered, though, we felt this was the best-quality product we tested.

Materials: Aluminum and stainless steel

Heating: Stainless steel coil; 375°F to 450°F

For use with: Flowers, concentrates, glycerin (with separate attachment)

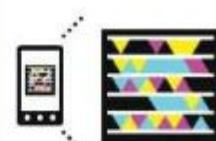
Kit includes: Standard battery unit; ceramic-lined tank; rubber mouthpiece with ceramic filter; USB charger and AC adapter; packing/dabbing tool; cleaning brush; two replacement coils (Optimus glycerin tank sold separately)

Website: atmosraw.com

Price: \$189.95

Rating: 5

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Atmos Thermo

While this device scored high on stealth—it was one of the smallest pens of the bunch—it lost points in the versatility and refill categories, as the tank is plastic and the top isn't removable. The only way to fill it is to inject liquid concentrate through a tiny hole at the top, and there's no refill bottle supplied to do that. Maybe instead of a second pen—the kit comes with two—they should have included the refill bottle (it's sold separately). Nevertheless, if you do manage to get it filled, it's a solid unit that delivers discreetly.



Note: Be on the lookout for the two latest Atmos models for thin to waxy concentrates, hitting the market around the time we go to press: the Nail, which offers three vaping options, and the Nuke, a twin-tank version of the Thermo with a switch that lets you activate either tank separately or both together for a "power hit."

Materials: Aluminum and stainless steel casing

Heating: Atomizer

For use with: Glycerin only

Kit includes: Two battery units; two cartridges; USB charger (refill bottle sold separately)

Website: atmosrx.com

Price: \$159.95

Rating: 3



CANNACig Vapor Inhaler

Coming in at the size of a typical cigarette, the Cannacig is about as stealthy as you can get. Like the Atmos V2, it comes two per kit. It has no power button—all you need to do to activate it is suck. It also scored high marks on ease of refill, since you merely have to dab your concentrate onto the cotton polyfill inside the mouthpiece and pop the tip back on. On the downside, using cotton as a filler material isn't necessarily the healthiest way to go, and the glowing red LED tip ain't exactly stealthy. Plus, as several judges pointed out, you can actually taste the cotton; some testers even felt the hit tasted "harsh."

Materials: Stainless steel casing; cotton polyfill

Heating: Titanium atomizer; 230°F to 420°F

For use with: Concentrates, glycerin

Kit includes: Two battery units; two heating units; two tips/cartridges; USB charger; seven-day money-back guarantee; one-year warranty

Website: vinhaler.com

Price: \$99.95

Rating: 3



Elevape

Unlike many standard devices, the Elevape's tank is in its mouthpiece, which is filled with glycerin—making it visible and therefore a bit less stealthy. While it employs the standard battery unit, the Elevape also features an added LCD screen with a battery meter and digital counter that tells you how many hits you've taken since the last charge (the company claims 150 to 200 puffs per charge). It also features a unique battery management system with "dosage control" that automatically shuts off the heating element after ten seconds, making larger hits impossible. This is a glycerin-only device, so it lost points for versatility, and some judges said it "felt cheap" and that the hits had a "plastic taste." Add to this the fact that it comes with no accessories except the charger, and this was not one of our high scorers.



Materials: Stainless steel, nickel-plated brass

Heating: Titanium alloy, ceramic

For use with: Glycerin only

Kit includes: tank/tip; standard heating unit; standard battery unit with LCD digital readout; USB charger; carrying case

Website: ipuffusa.com

Price: \$139.99

Rating: 3



Eureka

The Eureka features a slightly different battery unit, but it's still compatible with standard attachments. The cartridges are aluminum stuffed with cotton polyfill, not unlike the Cannacig. The Eureka delivered smooth, monster hits (up to 650 per charge), but the taste and smell of burning cotton was undeniable. Some judges felt the cone sheath was an unnecessary part and that the cartridge filter was a bit difficult to remove for refill. Overall, this pen scored high in the "high" category and around average in most others.

Materials: Stainless steel casing; aluminum cartridge; cotton polyfill; porcelain filter

Heating: Stainless steel and ceramic; 375°F to 450°F

For use with: Glycerin, concentrates

Kit includes: Battery unit; cone sheath; USB charger and AC adapter; three-year warranty (cartridge sold separately)

Website: facebook.com/eureka.vapor

Price: Kit-\$80; cartridge-\$65. Available only at dispensaries in California

Rating: 3.5



Fusion Osmosis

This is a solid, durable device with an excellent heating unit and a clip cap that makes it look more like a regular pen. Also, the tank and sheath both have windows that allow you to see how much concentrate is left inside without opening it up. At the same time, the Fusion Osmosis lost points because it's glycerin-only, and the cartridge/tank doesn't even come with the kit—you have to buy it prefilled from a dispensary. You can also fill it yourself, but the tiny plastic lid is a pain to remove and is easily lost. Some of the testers thought the glycerin supplied had a sweet, fruity flavor, while others said it tasted awful—like a magic marker or "bad Chinese food."

Materials: Stainless steel and aluminum casing; plastic cartridge and mouthpiece

Heating: Steel atomizer; 350°F to 390°F

For use with: Glycerin only

Kit includes: Standard battery unit; standard tank sheath with window; USB charger; clip cap; carrying case (plastic Tankomizer glycerin tank/cartridges with window and attached mouthpiece sold separately at dispensaries)

Website: fusionpvinc.com

Price: \$149.95

Rating: 3

3rd Place (TIE)

G Pen

Tying for third place (with the Trippy Stix) is the G Pen by Grenco Science. Though it's a standard

pen, it's not interchangeable with other brands' components, as the threading on the battery unit and charger are different. The tank uses a wick and coil cartomizer and holds about two grams of concentrate solution (around 400 puffs). The G Pen's packaging is truly baller—especially the carrying case, which (unlike the larger zipper cases that come with most standard pens) is actually a small cigarette-style case. It's also FDA-registered, pulls great and delivers a very smooth, tasteful hit. Definitely one of the top-of-the-line pens available.

Note: Grenco Science has a new unit coming out called the G Tank, which is made entirely from stainless steel and glass, with two separate vape chambers, a nail for dabbing and another for vaporizing essential oils.

Materials: Stainless steel casing; glass and copper accents; ceramic bowl

Heating: Inert-nickel/aluminum-alloy coil

For use with: Concentrates, glycerin

Kit includes: Standard battery unit; standard tank with window; dabbing tool; plastic mouthpiece; USB charger and AC adapter; two concentrate jars; one-year warranty (carrying case sold separately)

Website: grencoscience.com

Price: G Pen only, \$60; G Box kit, \$100

Rating: 4



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Hydrovape

The creators of the Hydrovape (Super-dragon Group UK) make a lot of unique claims. They say they own the only true patent for the technology and that all other standard devices are knock-offs. They say their new atomizer has zero toxins and creates the "only true, clean" vapor hit. They even claim they've received five International Gold Medals for Best Invention." We don't know about any of that; what we do know is that the Hydrovape works nearly as well as the G Pen (which it's almost identical to). Also, unlike all the other standard pens we tested, it comes with a screen so you can vape flowers, as well as a squeeze bottle for refilling the tank with liquid concentrate. And, for what it's worth, the Hydrovape has been approved by SGS (the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company), according to its creators. All in all, not a bad deal in our book.

Materials: Aluminum-alloy casing

Heating: Wire; 350°F to 390°F

For use with: Flowers, concentrates

Kit includes: Standard battery unit; standard tank with window; clip cap; USB charger and AC adapter; squeeze bottle for refills; one screen; carrying case

Website: hydrovapepens.com

Price: \$80 to \$100

Rating: 3.5

Pax

The Pax is unlike any of the other devices we tested, both in design and appearance. It has a very cool, space-age look—more like an iPod than a pen. Plus it has no tank; instead, it uses an "oven" chamber with a magnetic lid that's super-easy to open and close, and a steel screen that can be packed just like a regular bowl. The downside to the magnetic lid is that it isn't airtight, so concentrates can easily leak out through the seam. It also features a retractable mouthpiece that doubles as the power switch; it's a bit tricky to master at first, but incredibly stealthy. The Pax has three heat settings, which can be adjusted with a button underneath the mouthpiece, and you can check the battery life just by shaking it. The manufacturer, Ploom (a company based in



San Francisco), says the Pax has been extensively lab-tested and is consistent with FDA guidelines. As the highest-priced unit of all the ones we rated, it loses points for affordability, but overall, it's a sleek, solid device that delivers smooth, stealthy hits. We believe it's worth the cash (assuming you have it). Comes in black, blue or purple.

Materials: Anodized aluminum casing; laser-welded, surgical-grade, stainless-steel vapor path and components; highest-quality food-safe plastic

Heating: Ceramic; three settings (low 370°F, medium 390°F, high 410°F)

For use with: Flowers, concentrates

Kit includes: Unit; pop-out mouthpiece; charging cord and stand

Website: vaporstore.com

Price: \$249.99

Rating: 4

Omicron V2

Manufactured by Utopia Planitia Technologies (formerly THC Scientific), Omicron gets props for being pioneers of the vapor pen industry (and for the cool *Futurama* references in their

company/device names). Omicron has a few portable vaporizers on the market, none of which use the standard battery/tank system. Instead, their batteries are removable, and a full charge can reportedly last up to a week. The V2 uses a thinner metal cartomizer cartridge instead of a tank, and it also gets points for including a steel funnel that you can use to melt down concentrates and fill the cartridge—an accessory no other pen we tested had. There are a few other accessories available separately, including the



HVD upgrade (which is waterproof and more durable and allows you to use your V2 at a different voltage or as a mini-unit), a variety of colored mouthpieces, and the Hammer—a heat-wand attachment that can be used in place of a lighter or blowtorch when smoking concentrates from a nail or bowl. Our verdict: one of the better vapes around.

Materials: Aircraft-grade aluminum casing and mouthpiece

Heating: Nichrome wire; 400°F to 440°F

For use with: Concentrates; glycerin (unit sold separately)

Kit includes: Battery unit; mouthpiece; two 3.7-volt batteries; cartridge; steel fill funnel; battery charger; carrying case; limited lifetime warranty (HVD upgrade sold separately)

Website: omicronvaporizer.com

Price: \$129.99

Rating: 3.5



Omicron Persei

The Persei delivered the biggest hits of all the models we tested—by far. It comes with a lifetime warranty, which is impressive compared to the one- to three-year guarantees



most other pens offer. By switching from the two small batteries to the larger one, you can go from 3.7 to 6 volts (though why that's necessary, we're not sure). You also have the option of switching to a double-barrel cartridge cap, though that too seems unnecessary as well as a bit braggadocious—especially considering that we could get only one of the barrels to fire. Unfortunately, its larger size and conspicuous appearance made it one of the lowest scorers in the stealth category. But the biggest problem with this device is the lack of a sheath to enclose the cartridges, as they become scalding hot when used and a few of our judges actually burned their hands while testing it. Handle this one with caution!



Materials: Rubber mouthpiece; ceramic bowl; silica wick; food-grade seals and laser welds

Heating: Nichrome wire; 440°F

For use with: Concentrates

Kit includes: Body unit; single and double cartridge caps; two cartridges; two mouthpieces; steel refill funnel; one 18650 ion battery; two 18350 batteries; battery charger; lifetime limited warranty

Website: omicronvaporizer.com

Price: \$199.99

Rating: 3



Stok

We barely tested the Stok vape pen, for two reasons: First, the odor and amount of smoke that the heating element gave off



during the dry-burn were unappealing; and second, the first time we attempted to load it, the bowl snapped in half.

Since we were only supplied with one solo unit and no backup, and since we felt this product may have been poorly constructed (it's a standard pen but had a somewhat sketchy-looking seal at the bottom of the unit), we were reluctant to smoke from it, frankly. We could be totally wrong—it might have been just one defective unit—but considering that we were trying to judge it from the perspective of the average buyer taking it straight from the box, we felt that we had to give it a low rating. Sorry, guys.

Materials: Polypropylene casing

Heating: Nichrome and ceramic, 440°F

For use with: Concentrates, glycerin

Kit includes: Two standard battery units; two standard tanks with window; two plastic mouthpieces; two tank/tips; two clip caps; USB charger and AC adapter; 1 Skilletool; carrying case

Website: stokusa.com

Price: Solo kit, \$85; Dual kit, \$170; Pro kit, \$250

Rating: 1.5



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Thermovape

The Thermovape by Thermo Essence came with so many different attachments in so many different kit variations that it was very confusing trying to figure out which pieces were meant to be used in what ways. However, all of the modular variations are based on a single battery/body unit (which comes in either black or white) and made from the same materials, so we only need to provide one set of stats. All of the kits come with the base unit as well as batteries, chargers and adapters. The only difference among the sets are the chamber modules and mouthpieces, which are all available as conversion kits as well (so you don't need to rebuy the base unit).

Let's break down the various options: The T1 kit is for use with flowers and comes with a wide metal chamber with a steel bowl attached to the top, a screw-on metal lid and a small plastic mouthpiece. The Evolution is also for use with flowers and includes a different heating unit, a thin metal convection cartridge, a small rubber gasket, a plastic insulating sleeve (which includes a tiny radial air deflector) and a mouthpiece. The Revolution kit is for use with concentrates and comes with a small plastic mouthpiece and a thin, cylindrical steel chamber that "revolves" to reveal an opening into which you place your concentrate. When it's attached to the body, the device resembles a screwdriver. Other components available include the Liquid Conversion Kit (for use with glycerin), the Dart (Direct Application and Reloading Tool, for use with concentrates), the Pure Flow Filter tip (for Revolution), the Smooth

2nd Place



Flow Moisture Conditioner tip (for T1), a glass adapter hose, extended mouthpieces, Tru-Flow UFO mouthpieces ... like we said, it gets pretty complicated. But you don't need to concern yourself with any of these advanced options if you prefer not to; simply buy one of the main kits and you're good to go.

Regardless of which kit you get, this is a top-notch product. It's very easy to load, easy to clean (either by boiling or by soaking in rubbing alcohol and then rinsing with warm water) and easy to activate. The Thermovape includes clear, simple directions, and there's also a series of instructional videos online. In addition, all of the materials are 100 percent medical-grade (the company states that user safety is its top priority) and, unlike all of the other devices we tested, 100 percent designed, manufactured and assembled in the USA—something

that mattered a lot to us. Sure, it's not as thin as the standard pens (stealth was the only category it lost points in), and it takes a few seconds longer to get going, and one judge even claimed that his hit tasted a little like popcorn, but so what? We love popcorn ... and we love the Thermovape.

Materials: Aerospace-grade, cold-finished aluminum; lead-free, nickel-plated brass; FDA-approved Delrin plastic polymer

Heating: Wire; ceramic; aluminum and brass housing; 420°F

For use with: T1, Evolution: flowers; Revolution: concentrates; glycerin (with conversion kit)

Kit includes: Body; four "Tenergy" RCR123a batteries; battery charger; car adapter; wall adapter

Website: thermovape.com

Price: Revolution, \$149.99; Evolution, \$154.99; T1, \$199.99

Rating: 4.5



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3rd Place (TIE)

Trippy Stix

Trippy Stix calls itself the "world's first no-cartridge vaporizer" and says it delivers 800 puffs per charge. We didn't have the wherewithal to test that claim, but we did determine that it had a clean dry-burn, was easy to fill and hit great ("as strong as a dab," one tester said). It also features an auto shut-off after seven seconds, which is good because it seemed to get hotter than some of the other standard pens. It's also US-owned and -assembled (though still manufactured in China) and SGS-certified, and it comes with a staggering variety of options, including regular and digital versions, three different tanks, and a whopping 13 color options—which gave it top ratings for versatility. Stands alongside the G Pen (with which it tied for third place) as one of the better standard pens.

Materials: Stainless steel casing

Heating: Nickel (80%) and chrome (20%); 275°F to 300°F

For use with: Concentrates, glycerin

Kit includes: Standard battery unit; tapered chamber; two tank tips; plastic mouthpiece; USB charger (cartomizer tank, window tank and clip cap all sold separately)

Website: trippystix.com

Price: \$112 to \$150

Rating: 4

BRIAN JAHN (3)



Vaped Luxury Extract Vaporizer

Yet another standard pen, this one put out by Vaped Inc. (also from the Bay area). Unlike most other standard devices, however, it includes a car charger as well as a dab tool, comfy metal mouthpiece and lots of other accessories. It has a super-hot/bright heating unit that produced a clean dry-burn and a great hit. But it did smell a bit like a toaster, and one judge thought it delivered something of a metallic taste. Also, we felt that it was a little over-branded—having so many logos on it killed some of the stealth aspect. Still, this is a pretty decent vaporizer for the money.

Materials: N/A

Heating: N/A

For use with: Concentrates, glycerin

Kit includes: Standard battery unit with LCD digital readout; one rubber mouthpiece; one chrome mouthpiece; cap clip; standard tank with window; tapered sheath/bong adapter; stainless-steel cartridge; dab tool; USB charger with AC and car adapters; carrying case; one-year warranty

Website: ruvaped.com

Price: \$129

Rating: 4



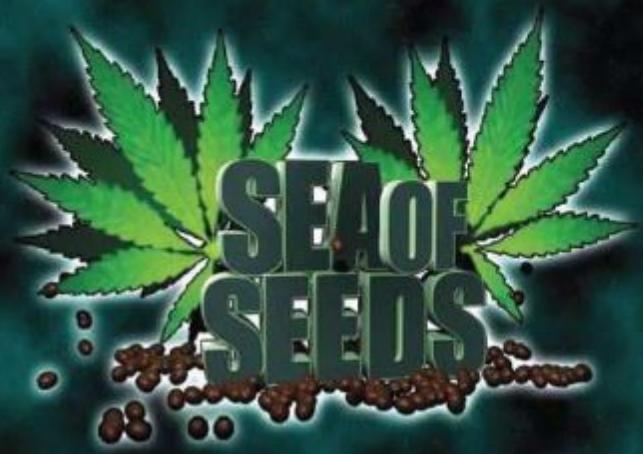
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A photograph of Tim Schafer, a man with dark, curly hair and a beard, wearing a black and grey striped shirt. He is holding a large, ornate sword with a textured hilt and a metallic blade. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background shows a brick wall and a painting.

Backed into
a corner, Tim
Schafer finally
agrees to the
interview.

Story and photos by
TYLER STEWART

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH TIM SCHAFER

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

ONCE UPON A TIME, VIDEO GAMES WERE TREATED LIKE A NICHE HOBBY SUPPORTED BY THE GEEKIER SUBSET OF SOCIETY—YOU KNOW, THE “INSIDE KIDS.” BUT WITH THE ADVENT OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF GAMERS DISPROVING THE STEREOTYPES SET BY THEIR PREDECESSORS, THE INDUSTRY HAS BOOMED INTO A MORE PROFITABLE BUSINESS THAN BOTH MUSIC AND FILM, PROJECTED TO PULL IN MORE THAN \$67 BILLION IN 2012 ALONE. AS A RESULT, MORE PEOPLE ARE RECOGNIZING THE MEDIUM AS AN ART FORM—AND WITHIN THAT CULTURE, THE ARTISTS HAVE EMERGED.

ONE OF THOSE ARTISTS IS TIM SCHAFER, CONSIDERED AMONG THE CROWD AS ONE OF THE MOST REBELLIOUS, ECCENTRIC AND CREATIVE MINDS IN THE INDUSTRY. WITH GAMES LIKE *GRIM FANDANGO*, A NOIR TALE SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF AN UNDERWORLD OCCUPIED BY MEXICAN CALACA FIGURES, AND *PSYCHONAUTS*, AN ADVENTURE WHEREIN LEAD CHARACTER RAZ IS TASKED WITH VENTURING INTO THE MINDS OF HIS SUBJECTS—LITERALLY—TO EXTRACT EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE AND UNCOVER SUBCONSCIOUS THOUGHTS THAT DARKEN THEIR PSYCHES, SCHAFER HASN’T SHIED AWAY FROM CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY WHILE GETTING THEIR KICKS. HE’S ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS SHARP WIT, SCRIPTING CLASSIC GAMES LIKE *THE SECRET OF MONKEY ISLAND* AND *FULL THROTTLE* DURING HIS TIME AT GEORGE LUCAS’ STUDIO LUCASARTS.

THAT REPUTATION HELPED HIM LAUNCH HIS OWN STUDIO, DOUBLE FINE PRODUCTIONS, IN 2000. SINCE THEN, HE AND HIS TEAM HAVE RELEASED SEVEN TITLES—ALL TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM. THE MOST POPULAR AMONG THEM IS 2009’s *BRÜTAL LEGEND*, WHICH STARS JACK BLACK, TIM CURRY, AND ROCK ICONS ROB HALFORD AND OZZY OSBOURNE IN A STORY SO METAL, ITS DENSITY CAN’T BE MEASURED. TODAY, DOUBLE FINE IS RIDING THE WAVE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CROWD-SOURCING EFFORT IN VIDEO GAME HISTORY, HAVING RAISED ALMOST \$3.5 MILLION THROUGH KICKSTARTER TO FUND A RETURN-TO-ROOTS POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE GAME, THE GENRE THAT MADE SCHAFER FAMOUS. AS A RESULT, HE’S REJECTING THE SHACKLES THAT PUBLISHERS OFTEN THROW ON THE WRISTS OF DEVELOPMENT TEAMS BY REACHING OUT DIRECTLY TO THE FAN BASE. COMBINED WITH THE LOOMING ANTIQUATION OF DISCS, THIS EXPERIMENT COULD HAVE A RESONATING EFFECT ON THE GAME INDUSTRY’S FUTURE, AND SCHAFER IS HAPPY TO LEAD THE CHARGE.

HIGH TIMES DROPPED IN ON DOUBLE FINE TO MEET HIM, WHERE WE DISCUSSED THE BENEFITS OF BEING A GEEK, THE CREATIVE PROCESS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

You started in the industry as a programmer and a writer, two very different jobs.

At Berkeley I studied programming, but I found myself more and more interested in creative writing. I entered some short story contests and stuff and, back then, the job seemed perfect. They called us scuttlebutts, we were like the lowest on the totem pole, but it didn’t matter.

They’re being LucasArts, who during that time dominated PC gaming. What was it like working for George Lucas?

Beside the fact that it was on Skywalker Ranch, I was actually really excited about the games. We didn’t know what we were going to work on; we were just four young guys in a room, and we were messing around with some practice art. They were just teaching us how to use this language, SCUMM.

The first game you ended up working on was *The Secret of Monkey Island*.

Ron Gilbert, one of the teachers who trained us on SCUMM, would come in in the afternoons and watch what we had done with it. He picked me and Dave Grossman out of that group to work with him on *The Secret of Monkey Island*, which he was just starting to develop.

Why did he pick you two?

’Cause we had done the dumbest jokes, maybe, I don’t know. There’s something about the kind of jokes and the creativity that you use when you don’t think it matters, the kind that takes away worry. If you don’t think what you’re doing is going to be used by anyone you can kind of free yourself to try crazy, stupid things and they turn out to be the funniest, best stuff sometimes. I assumed that Ron would come in and fix it all. But he was like, ‘No, no, this is good, we’re gonna use it.’ Which was a good lesson for me in that

sometimes you just assume something has to change because it’s so ridiculous, but it actually doesn’t. A lot of the lessons that I’ve learned in the industry have been about not worrying about stuff.

Most people have a focused strength in either the technical or the creative. What do you think has been a big driver for your development of both skills?

I love computers. I just saw them as one more tool to make something fun for other people to enjoy. Like drawing a picture, it’s a way to take something in you and use it to entertain someone else, or capture something and share it with someone else. Video games are just another way of doing that. It was very helpful when I was writing dialogue to be able to program, because you could make the dialogue work for various interactive possibilities that happen in the game. So, you know, if you’re playing a character and he wants to say something but the game needs to figure out whether you have a certain inventory item in your pouch, or whether you’ve met another character, or whether you chose to be a female character or a male character, the writing has to change to incorporate all that or else the programming has to work around it to change the writing. So being able to choose from either solves the problem instantly. It’s really essential to make those games work that way for me.

What would you say your early influences were, text adventure games?

Yeah. I loved those. I grew up playing a lot of Infocom text adventures, like *Zork*, *Deadline*, *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, *Wishbringer*, those games. And then the Scott Adams adventures before that which were really just simple commands. I loved those games. I played those on my Atari all day long.

Did you have any influences from the writing side, like comedians or personalities whose humor kind of echoes through in your writing?

Growing up I loved comedy albums. I would find them in my brother's room, these old Bill Cosby and George Carlin albums. Just hearing the audience laughing on the record, there was something really magical about them. But then reading stuff like Kurt Vonnegut in high school had a big impact on me. Just his way of telling stories was really funny and sad at the same time. And surprising and unpredictable.

Humor seems to be a major part of the narratives in your games. That doesn't mean they lack emotional depth—they sometimes focus on darker aspects of our humanity and of nature. Do you think that it's important to find humor in the dark stuff?

I feel that it's more that I'm injecting the dark stuff once in a while into humorous situations. When I'm writing, it's not about searching for jokes, but to start with where the characters are. I look for their source—what drives them, what their background is. Like anybody's life, we're all here, but maybe years and years ago something terrible happened to us. It doesn't mean we're here broken because of that, but it means something. And it means in everything that we do, it's there lurking, and you manage to have fun and have lighthearted moments even though you've been through something bad in the past. That's all you're writing, it's all part of life being tragedy and comedy mixed together, and one doesn't exclude the other, and neither one is a cure for the other and they're just always coexisting. And I think the funniest moments come from having all that background knowledge of what a character has been through because you know what that surprise, or that twist, or that joke means to them.

A lot of developers make these really washed out, serious games with little or no humor in them. What do you think about those types of games?

I like serious, you know. Of course, for me it would be a very difficult challenge. I often start out with a high concept being serious or serious-sounding and then when I discuss the structure, these character journeys are all very serious. And then when I go to write the scene, the actual dialogue, there's just a lot of like idle time that has to be filled and it gets filled with jokes for some reason. You know at the micro level it's a lot more jokey than at the larger level. Like in *Grim Fandango*, the four-year journey of the soul across the Land of the Dead is not a comedy setup, but when you're in there and there's a demon with a big tongue hanging out of his mouth, funny stuff happens.

You had tremendous success with Kickstarter. The goal was \$400,000 and you raised \$3 million more than that. What does that mean for the game you guys are creating?

It means an incredible amount of freedom for us because the money came with no strings attached, except for our own commitment to the



From top: *The Secret of Monkey Island* (1990); *Full Throttle* (1995); *Grim Fandango* (1998); *Psychonauts* (2005); *Brütal Legend* (2009).

"Games can put you in a meditative state that is healthy. They're like lucid dreams."

backers, who are our biggest fans and ultimate players of the game. And that's who we want to please anyway; when we're making a game we're always thinking about making those guys happy, so that's all we have to do. We don't have to worry about a publisher, or investor, or anybody else telling us what to do. It's a totally different way of making games than usual when you're working with someone else's money.

Do you think that this experiment will have long-term effects on the industry, or could this be a fluke?

I think it's a permanent change. It has opened up a door that will stay open. The future is definitely going to be all digital,

so you don't have to worry about distribution. This just takes yet another one of those pillars away, which is that you don't necessarily need someone to get financing. You could go to the crowd. As long as you have a compelling idea and you are able to present yourself as an interesting person who could

do an interesting project in an interesting way, you could get money from the Internet.

Speaking of opening doors, there's a rumor you wanted to put a peyote trip sequence into *Full Throttle*...

I self-censored that because I knew I couldn't get it in. George Lucas is a little bit like Disney in that he's a family game maker. I thought about it, but I stored a lot of those ideas away until I made *Psychonauts*.

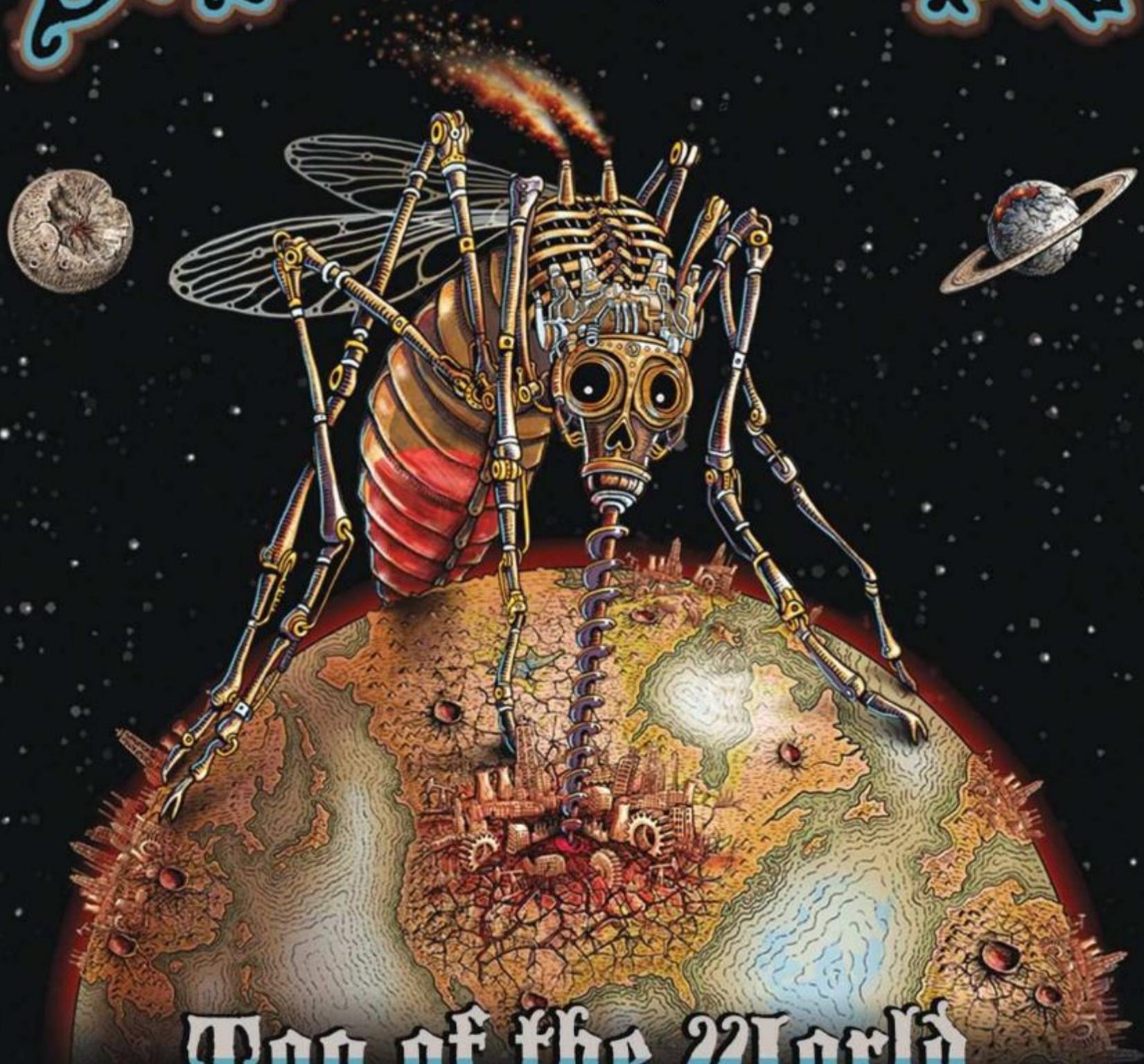
Which was the very definition of a mind trip.

I think *Psychonauts* was kind of the realization of that. I've always been interested in psychology and the human mind and what it does in altered states of consciousness. Those states can be achieved in a lot of different ways: it could be meditation, it could be drugs, it could be an Australian Aborigine walkabout, or just dreaming.

What about dreaming?

I took a class on the psychology of dreams, *Psychonauts* was really inspired by it. A big part of it was about how people create things in their dreams that represent emotional things going on in their lives. You know, people will dream about a bear when they're really scared about their father or something. They're trading metaphors just like a poet or a writer does. They're regular people who would not consider themselves as skilled poets, but they're creating beautiful symbols for these emotional things. Everyone has this power in their head to create poetry, and they do it when they're dreaming.

Slightly Stoopid



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And so do you think that to understand our minds better, it's important to find these altered states of consciousness?

I definitely think you need some way of leaving your day-to-day state of mind, because sometimes there's that rut you get in that you need something to kick you out of, to see things differently, and to relax and be happy. I think if you just have this repetitive mental cycle all throughout your day and you bring it home, it just wears at your heart and you die early.

So, peyote ...

I've never taken peyote, I can say that, but I ... let's see, what can I say about that ... I planned on pursuing the *idea*.

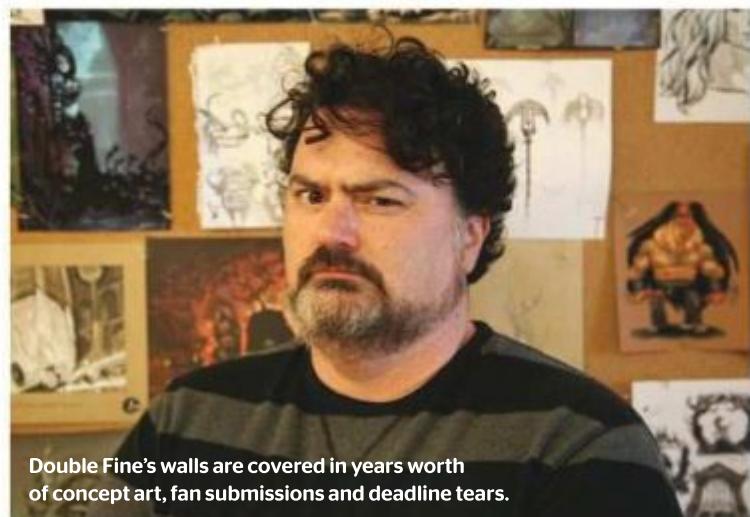
Got ya, got ya. Well, what role do you think things like pot play in the industry, in terms of conceptualizing ideas and even approaching programming?

I had a friend who would say that he felt like all day

long he was running through a library in his head, knocking over shelves, knocking over books, and he would just keep going. Then he would sit down at the end of the day and he would smoke pot, and to him that was putting all the books back on the shelf, sorting out his mind and getting it all taken care of. It's different for everyone, but for some it's just another one of those things that can free your mind up a bit and allow you to think more clearly.

Not everybody in our readership does play video games. How do you explain to somebody just what art value they have and how fun they can be?

To me they're literature just like books and movies, and there's great art being done in the world of games. I think it's like comic books, where there's good ones and bad ones and sometimes it's helpful to have a guide or someone who knows a lot about them



Double Fine's walls are covered in years worth of concept art, fan submissions and deadline tears.

because there's like five good ones to every hundred bad ones. You know, to like really find the stuff that's meaningful. But I think, as I hope the art form progresses and the games become more about emotional topics and things like that, they can have the same benefit as books and movies do where they help you run kind of a practice session in emotional situations. You know when you read a great novel, it helps you

develop emotionally because you see the foreshadowing of situations that helps you to prepare when something like that happens in your life. Games in general can do that same thing, putting yourself in situations that help you visualize something that is not safe in your real life or you're not ready for. Games can put you in a meditative state that is healthy and great for development. They're like lucid dreams. *

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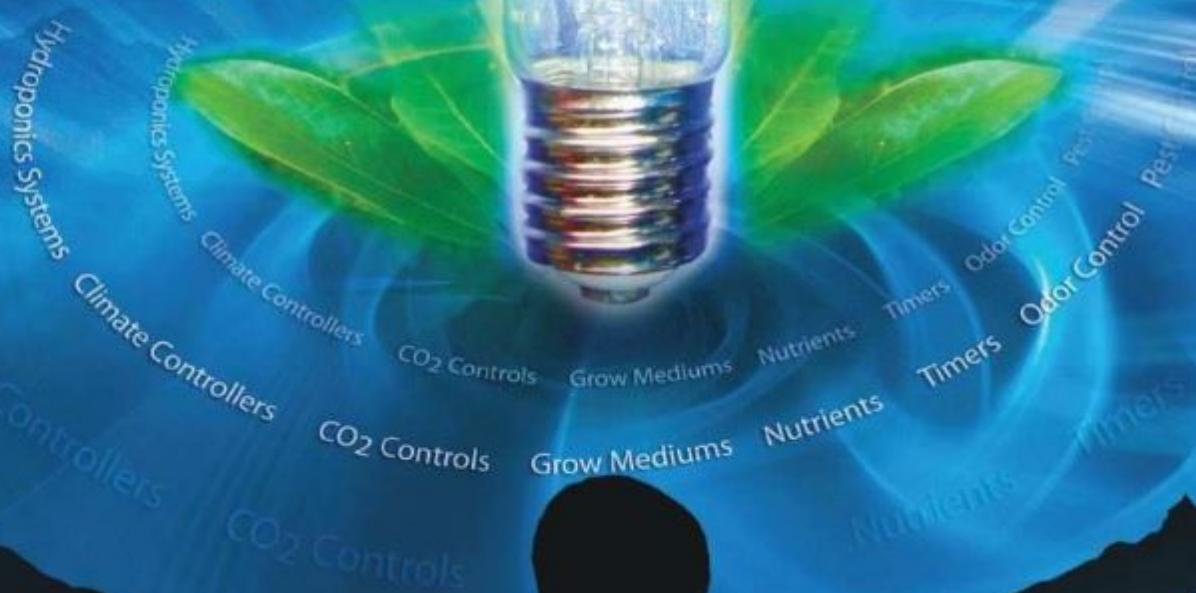
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Male flowers protrude from a female-looking bud on this hermaphroditic plant.



SUBJECT: **Hermaphroditic Pot Seeds**

FROM: **Anna Bliss**

➲ My friend's Chem Dog female hermied and fertilized itself. Are the seeds viable, or will they grow out to be hermies as well?

Dear Anna,

Your friend's seeds will grow out to be half female and half hermaphrodite. Because it's important to avoid continually seeding your garden, you should resist the urge to plant those seeds unless you plan to carefully vet them as they grow in order to rid yourself of the hermies. It's a demanding process, and I frankly wouldn't recommend growing out the seeds at all due to the risk of producing more hermies. Instead, start over using tried-and-true seeds from a reliable source and then grow yourself out a mother plant from which to take clones.

Danko Tip: Freeze your trimmings after harvest if you plan to make ice water-extracted hash from them.



SUBJECT: Transplanting During Flowering
FROM: Sour Wonder

Is it okay to transplant my plants into bigger pots two weeks or more into flowering? Will it stunt their growth? Will more roots even grow? I'm afraid my plants are too root-bound right now to produce much bud.

Dear Sour,

I don't recommend transplanting anytime during the flowering stage of plant growth due to the one- to two-week recovery time. Do your transplanting into larger containers at least two weeks before you induce flowering to allow the plant's roots to recover from the shock of exposure and jostling. Always transplant gently in order to limit the amount of time the plant will need to spring back into growth. If you must transplant during the flowering stage, factor a recovery period of at least a week or two into your flowering time. The roots will eventually grow into the fresh soil you've added, but only after enough time has passed for the plants to rebound from their transplant shock.

SUBJECT: Forced Flowering
FROM: C-Los

Can I force-flower a plant by moving it indoors and out for 12 hours in the middle of summer (i.e., when the days are 97°F to 105°F)?

Leaves typically sag immediately after transplantation due to shock.

Dear JMan,

Hydrogen peroxide (diluted, of course) can be quite helpful in a hydroponic reservoir. The added oxygen will certainly benefit the roots, but keep in mind that this works only with a chemical-fertilizer system, because the solution can adversely affect (i.e., kill) the beneficial bacteria in an organic application. Roots will also appear much whiter using hydrogen peroxide, which some hydro growers prefer aesthetically.

As to your second question, plants grown outdoors have more of a tolerance than indoor ones for the kind of ambient light you mention simply because they're acclimated to it. However, certain strains will still show stress from ambient outdoor light during the night because they're more prone to herm out than others.

SUBJECT: Removing Dead and Dying Leaves
FROM: Penguin Pete

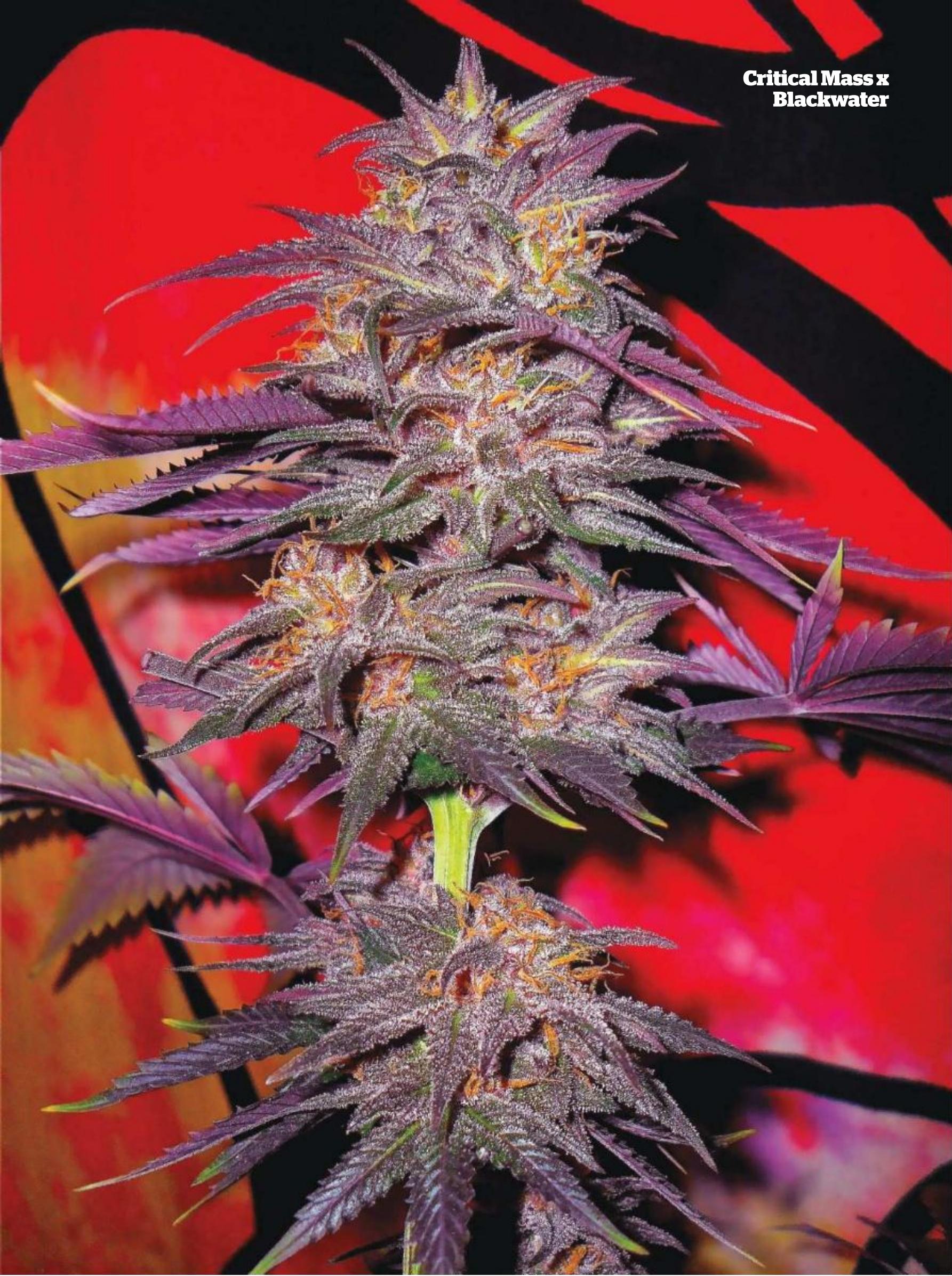
What are the consequences of letting dead or yellow leaves stay on a plant? My friend says that even if the leaves are damaged, they're still helping the plant, and that removing them is worse than leaving them on. Is he right?

Dear Penguin Pete,

Always remove all yellowing, dying or dead leaves from your cannabis plants, since they contribute nothing to your garden and actually can hurt it in a number of ways. For example, molds, powdery mildew and other pathogens will find a home in diseased areas first and spread from there. This is also the reason that sticky insect traps are yellow in color: Pests are drawn to yellow leaves because they represent a weakness in the plant, making them a great place to start their assault.

I can't tell you how many growrooms I've been in that have dead leaves on the floor. This is a breeding ground for trouble, so always get rid of yellow, dying or dead leaves and remove them from the growroom area completely. However, don't throw them out with your regular garbage: You can compost them, burn them in a fireplace or use some other method, but putting them out with your trash could alert your neighbors or, even worse, law enforcement officials to what you're growing inside your home.

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Danko Tip: Label your plants at all times and take copious notes if you hope to learn each time you grow cannabis.

SUBJECT: Light Bright

FROM: PM Dankness

Hi! I love *High Times*, and your articles have really helped me out. I have a 2' x 3' closet that I want to convert into a flowering room for one plant at a time. I own one 2', two-bulb T5 strip that I will use, but obviously I need more light for a flowering room. I was considering a 150-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp or a 2', four-bulb T5 strip. Which setup would produce the densest buds? Also, if the T5s work best, should I replace all the cool white bulbs with warm white high-output (HO) bulbs? Thanks for the help!

Dear PM,

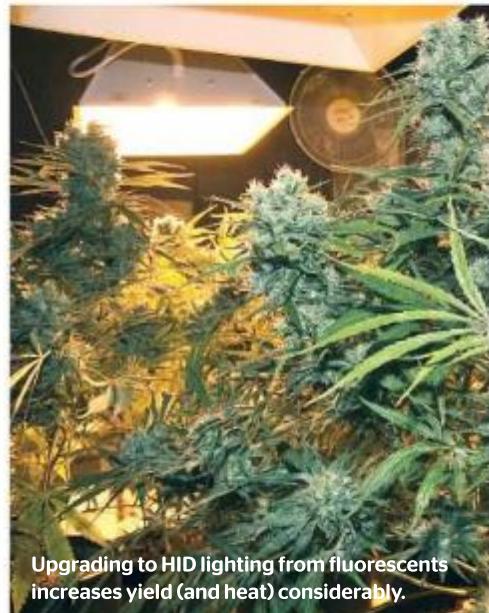
Thanks for your kind words! You're definitely better off going with the 150-watt HPS light over the T5 fluorescent, but it will create more heat and a higher electricity bill as well. If you can deal with the heat (and added costs), you'll get much bigger and denser buds using a high-intensity discharge (HID) light like HPS over the fluoro.

SUBJECT: Low Yields

FROM: Adam

Hi! First off, I would like to say thank you for all the wonderful information in your magazine—it's one of the few things that cheers me up after a long day at work. I was recently fired from a large corporation that clearly didn't appreciate the countless hours and years that I sacrificed for the company. I've missed numerous birthdays, funerals and other events with a sentimental value because I wanted to be a good employee—only to be canned at the first sign of weakness.

In recent months, I've begun growing indoors to supplement my income (all the things that unemployment doesn't cover) and attempt to save some money in order to move out west and start a medicinal farm or dispensary. I've just harvested my first crop, but with dismal results. I've been using a 400-watt metal halide/high-pressure sodium convertible light, Humboldt Nutrients and root-enhancing additives in organic soil. I check my pH before every watering, and the plants seem to be happy and strong. I feel that I'm doing everything that I should be for a great yield, but I'm not getting it. So where have I gone wrong? What can I do to increase



Upgrading to HID lighting from fluorescents increases yield (and heat) considerably.

my yields? Are there any recommended techniques that I'm not using? Please help me work toward my dream of moving out west before I come to the conclusion that I'm not good enough to grow, just as I wasn't good enough for my ex-employer.

Dear Adam,

Sounds like you're on the right track to marijuana self-sufficiency. Your dismal yield could be due to a number of factors. The genetics of the plants you're growing directly determine the potential yield you can get out of them, so always be sure to invest in high-quality seeds or clones. Also, your light could be too far away from the plant tops, or you could be over-watering or under-watering, or using too much or too little fertilizer. It's hard to tell from your brief description what the exact problem is, but these are the most common reasons for a disappointing yield. Make sure that your conditions are optimal, including the heat and humidity levels in your growroom, and you should see improvement.

Good luck in determining the problem and fixing it for your next round of growing, and good luck as well with your dream of running a medical marijuana farm or dispensary!

SUBJECT: pH and EC

FROM: Cataylor

Hey, guys! Thanks for the great show (*Free Weed*)—please keep it up. Over the past few months, I've been watching Green House Seeds' grow videos on *growHD.tv*. Arjan and Franco often refer to their pH

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Danko Tip: Filter all air coming into your growroom to avoid bringing in insects.

A close-up of root aphids climbing around on a bud.



measurements and EC values. I've never been able to fully understand how pH and EC work. Does the higher value of one increase the value of the other? Which is more important to pay attention to?

Dear Cataylor,

It's actually pretty simple: pH is a measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of your growing medium or nutrient solution, while EC (electrical conductivity) is a measurement of the level of your nutrients. When the pH is too low or too high (below 5 or above 7), you get nutrient lockup, meaning the roots are unable to uptake certain foods. If the EC is too low or too high, it means you either don't have enough plant food in your solution or you have too much. Both are very important to monitor in order to make sure you're feeding your plants properly and that they can ingest the food you're giving them.

SUBJECT: Spraying Neem Oil

FROM: SW

Is it true that neem oil suffocates plants when it gives their leaves that shiny sheen? Is it detrimental to spray too often?

Dear SW,

When you spray neem oil (diluted and mixed with water, of course) onto a plant in order to rid it of spider mites or other damaging insects, it does coat the leaves and stifle their ability to respire. This is how a plant "breathes"—taking in carbon dioxide (CO_2) and giving off oxygen (O_2)—so the plant is, in effect, "suffocating" for the period of time the neem oil is on the leaf surface. This is why you must rinse the coated leaves off with plain water within a few hours of spraying them with neem oil. At that point, the neem oil has done its job, so it's time to remove it and allow the plant to breathe again. *

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I could swear you said that cannabis makes it seem time is going by faster, but I feel like it goes by slower. Which is it?

Rhythm Man

Hi RM,

That all depends on what you're doing. In laboratory studies, people reported that time does seem to pass more slowly after using the plant: For example, high folks will say that a two-second flash on a computer monitor seemed like it lasted four seconds. (Maybe that's why TV commercials and the opening credits for movies seem to go on forever.) Nevertheless, time does fly when you're having fun, so some of the results for these lab tasks—which, after all, aren't any fun—may not be applicable to other experiences.

Is there more crime in neighborhoods that have medical pot dispensaries?

T.K. Li

Hi T.K.,
Nope. Dispensaries have no link to a higher rate of property crime or violence.

What's the word on marijuana and sex for women?

Gina

Hi Gina,
If I had to pick one word, it would be "lubrication." The plant tends to dry mucous membranes, so keeping a lubricant by your bedside is a good idea. Also, heterosexual women should know that silicone-based lubricants won't hurt condoms. Oil-based lubricants are a bad idea because they can dissolve the latex—and few things are worse than seeing broken



Marijuana can make the clock abstract.

Time does seem to pass more slowly after using the plant.

condoms swinging in the breeze post-intercourse.

My friend and I play a ton of chess. He always wins on the weekends, when we smoke. I always win during the week, when we don't. What gives?

Martin

Hi Martin,
Sounds like your friend either has a higher tolerance for cannabis or more practice playing chess while high. As with anything else, the more you play chess, the better you get (and the obvious corollary: The more you play chess after using the plant, the better you get under those circumstances). I recommend trying to keep your dosage low on weekends—or else switching to backgammon.

Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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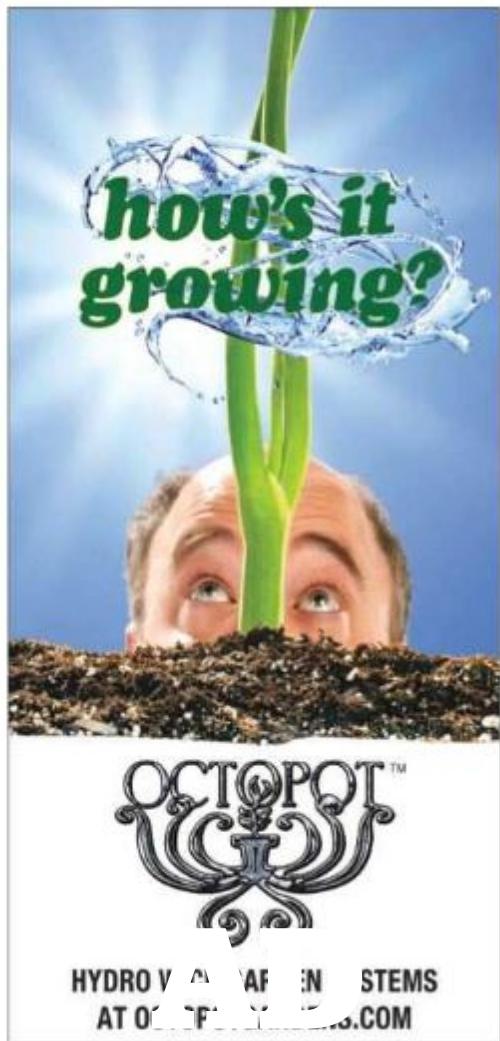
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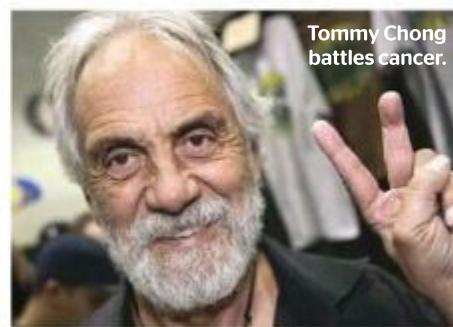
The Cannabis Cure Is No Joke

Tommy Chong's latest battle is with prostate cancer—and his weapon is cannabis oil.

WHILE IT'S ALMOST impossible to get the national media to publicize any success stories involving the use of cannabis oil to treat cancer, this blackout apparently doesn't extend to marijuana icon Tommy Chong. When Tommy recently announced that he had slow-moving prostate cancer and intended to use the controversial Rick Simpson method to treat it, hundreds of newspapers across the country trumpeted his story on their front pages.

While many reporters gave Tommy the benefit of the doubt, ABC closed its (predictably brief) coverage with a cautionary statement from the chairman of the Department of Urology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. "As a comedian, this is a really funny skit," said Dr. Leonard G. Gomella. "As a public figure who can get a forum, it is irresponsible." That ludicrous statement just goes to show how truly ignorant much of the medical profession remains concerning the effects of cannabis oil on cancer.

Tommy's biggest hurdle at this point is withstanding the initial mental effects of the oil, which can be quite uncomfortable for a few days, leaving patients woozy and disoriented. Although many patients attempt to eat the necessary one-half gram per day for two months, many drop the treatment after the first dose. Even if you're experienced with the effects of marijuana, one tiny application of the oil is sometimes enough to keep a person high for days. Tommy announced that he was planning to dose himself at night, but, in reality, patients taking that route wake up very stoned. Fortunately, these effects diminish over time as the body adjusts to the flood of cannabinoids within the system.



Tommy Chong battles cancer.

One tiny application of the oil is sometimes enough to keep a person high for days.

When I wrote the first article on Rick Simpson in *High Times* several years ago, it provoked a strong statement from the well-respected Dr. Lester Grinspoon, who warned people not to trust anecdotal information like Rick's. At the time, Rick was being hounded because he didn't produce documentation on the hundreds of patients he'd treated. The marijuana movement was fractured between those who supported Rick, those who thought he was a dangerous quack and those who didn't know what to think.

From that moment, I started a quest to gather evidence that would support Rick's claims, and the first person I contacted was Valerie Corral at WAMM in Santa Cruz. Since WAMM specializes in the treatment of people with terminal cancer (and also grows some of the finest medical-grade cannabis in the world), I was hopeful that Valerie could find a volunteer to start eating oil and document the results from day one. In the meantime, Valerie began to develop an organic cannabis concentrate called Milagro Oil, which is produced without any petroleum products.

And wouldn't you know it: Just as Tommy was hitting the national news with his announcement and doctors were pooh-poohing the very idea of cannabis curing cancer, WAMM was celebrating its biggest success story to date. Michele Aldrich was diagnosed with Stage III lung cancer and, within a few weeks of eating Milagro Oil, she was cancer-free.

"I was very skeptical about Rick," says Michelle. "But the type of cancer I had, with bulky lymph-node involvement, only has a 2 to 5 percent survival rate. Most people are dead by 13 months. I did not want to die of lung cancer. I am now a believer—and a survivor." *

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110 Almost Infamous by Bobby Black

High Times November 2012



Tune In, Toke Up & Rock Out

Remembering *High Times* Records' one and only rock release.

If you've seen the ads for Smoke DZA's new album *Rugby Thompson* in our past few issues, you may have thought to yourself: "High Times Records? They have a record label now?" Well, yes—but its current incarnation (run by Nature Sounds head honcho and former *HT* graphics wiz Devin Horowitz) is actually a revival of an imprint launched a decade ago. The original was discontinued in 2004, but not before putting out a few solid discs, including *T.H.C.—The Hip-Hop Collection* and an album very near and dear to my heart, *High Volume: The Stoner Rock Collection*.

Back in 2002, when the stoner rock wave was at its peak, former *HT* Records president Mike Esterson and I decided to put together a quintessential compilation featuring original tracks from some of the genre's top bands. A number of lesser-known but deserving groups (such as Bad Wizard, Suplecs, Sea of Green and Bottom) were quick to jump on board, while other, bigger names (like Clutch, Orange Goblin and High on Fire) took a bit more convincing. And then there was Corrosion of Conformity, who—being at the height of their commercial success—held up production of the record by almost a year while their lawyers and label execs rewrote the contract four times.

Meanwhile, I was keeping busy with the art direction, designing the overall package and scheduling a photo shoot for the cover. With my famous friend Mistress Juliya—host of the Fuse channel's popular metal show, *Uranium*—graciously consenting to be my model, I was sure we had a hit on our hands. I hired a photographer, booked some time at Gig Lizzy rehearsal studios in midtown Manhattan, and proceeded to pull off one of the sexiest rock 'n' roll shoots ever.

The shots were so hot, in fact, that I decided to turn the CD booklet into a foldout centerfold of Juliya. But just as



I was finalizing the design to ship to the printer, I got a call from her lawyer saying that I couldn't use the photos. It seems that despite her assurances to the contrary, Juliya's contract with Fuse forbade her from doing anything associated with illegal drugs. If I went ahead with the photos, she'd most likely lose her job, and we could face a lawsuit.

After some tense negotiations, I was granted permission to use the shots, on one condition: I couldn't show Juliya's face. So much for using star power to boost sales; instead, we'd have to rely on pure sex appeal. Since her face was out of the question, I put her crotch on the cover instead—more specifically, the pot leaf tattoo just above her ... um ... you get the idea.

With the sleeve art finished and the last contracts signed, the project went into production at last. When the first batch of finished CDs came in, I was beyond proud. All the hard work had paid off—I'd produced my first album, and it looked and sounded perfect. And with the killer slogan "Tune In, Toke Up, Rock Out," all that remained was to get the word out. But that, I soon discovered, would be the final, fatal problem.

Just before the album's release, Esterson took a bath on one of his other business ventures, and thus so did the promotional budget for *High Volume*. Instead of taking out ads in all the major music magazines, we could only run ads in *High Times*. So, despite great reviews and two years of effort, the compilation never really made it out of the gate.

Shortly thereafter, the label folded—that is, until now. Hopefully, this time around, *HT* Records will take off ... as for *High Volume*, I've long since accepted its status as nothing more than an obscure cult classic. *

For more, go to hightimesrecords.com.
High Volume is currently available on Amazon and iTunes.

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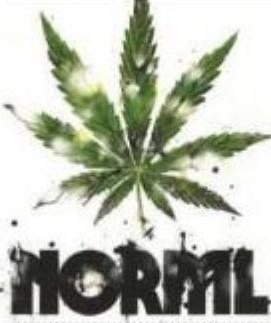
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The Cannabis Caucus

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Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

IT'S NO SECRET that all of the political action and positive change in American marijuana-law reform has been happening at the state and local level, with the federal government remaining firmly committed to prohibition. Presently, 14 states have decriminalized cannabis possession, while 17 states, as well as the District of Columbia, have adopted medical cannabis access laws. Legalization initiatives are now common for state voters. In the November election, Colorado and Washington will have legalization on the ballot, while Massachusetts will vote on a medical cannabis ballot question. By fits and starts, states are increasingly abandoning the federal government's failed model of cannabis prohibition.

So what can hasten cannabis-law reform on the federal level? Perhaps a committed group of reform-minded lawmakers in the House of Representatives and the Senate—a so-called "cannabis caucus" that would represent the financial and public-safety concerns of their respective districts or states regarding cannabis prohibition. They would support the replacement of failed and misguided federal policies with more sensible and effective alternatives—ones modeled after the policies that have evolved around similar adult commerce, such as the sale of alcohol and tobacco products.



Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) is a political leader on our side.

Until recently, identifying "cannabis caucus" members was a fanciful endeavor. Thankfully, this is no longer the case. More than a half-dozen influential policymakers in Congress are actively and publicly challenging cannabis prohibition. The current members in Congress to watch: Representatives Jared Polis (D-CO), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Doris Matsui (D-CA), as well as former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Soon to join the "cannabis caucus": Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), both running for Congress in the 2012 election.

There are also two notable up-and-coming politicians on the West Coast who support cannabis-law reform: former San Francisco prosecutor Kamala Harris and former judge Ellen Rosenblum, the

state attorneys general in California and Oregon, respectively.

Each of these politicians has demonstrated support for cannabis-law reform in a number of ways: by introducing reform legislation; by openly questioning the budget priorities of the federal government's anti-drug bureaucracies; by appearing at NORML and other drug-policy reform conferences and events, or seeking NORML PAC donations; and by seriously grilling executive-branch officials on how they conduct the country's unpopular War on Drugs, especially against cannabis producers and consumers.

As cities and states across the country continue to lead the drive for substantial cannabis-law reform, grassroots pressure on members of Congress will continue to mount. And the emergence of a growing caucus of Congressional and state politicians faithfully representing the regional will and concerns of their constituents is yet one more positive socio-political indicator that cannabis prohibition is finally coming to a well-deserved end in the United States. *

To watch videos of Reps. Polis and Cohen lambasting DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart at a Congressional oversight hearing convened to address the DEA's ongoing harassment of state-approved medical cannabis businesses, go to norml.org.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Texas Tea Party

Activist Shaun McAlister makes the Lone Star State greener.

With the recent endorsement of marijuana decriminalization by the Democratic Party in Texas, the Lone Star State has been making headlines in the marijuana-law reform world. And that kind of progress would be unimaginable without hardworking grassroots advocates like Shaun McAlister.

Just over a year ago, Shaun was named executive director of Dallas-Fort Worth NORML, one of NORML's most active regional affiliates. Since he assumed that position, the group's membership has doubled, necessitating the move to a new, larger meeting space. Also, DFW NORML's Global Marijuana March brought out almost 500 Texans this year, raising awareness for marijuana legalization



and making local news in the process. McAlister and his chapter built upon that success by throwing the BBQ Smokeout, which drew 300 marijuana-law reform advocates together despite the blistering Texas heat, eclipsing previous attendance records.

"I've seen DFW NORML transform from a group of passionate people with a shared interest in legalization into a family that truly works as a

team," Shaun says proudly. "My activism has found me lifelong friends, renewed my passion for life and given me more satisfaction."

With multiple monthly meetings coming up, as well as a summer fundraiser with national NORML and other activist efforts on the horizon, the best is yet to come from the crew at DFW NORML. As Shaun puts it: "Here in Dallas-Fort Worth, we're ending cannabis prohibition one Texan at a time. Join us! Herb's the word!"

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

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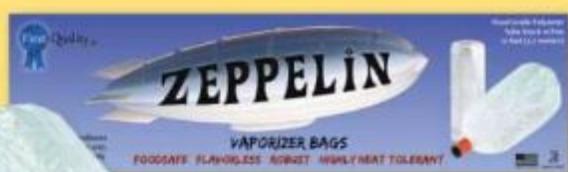
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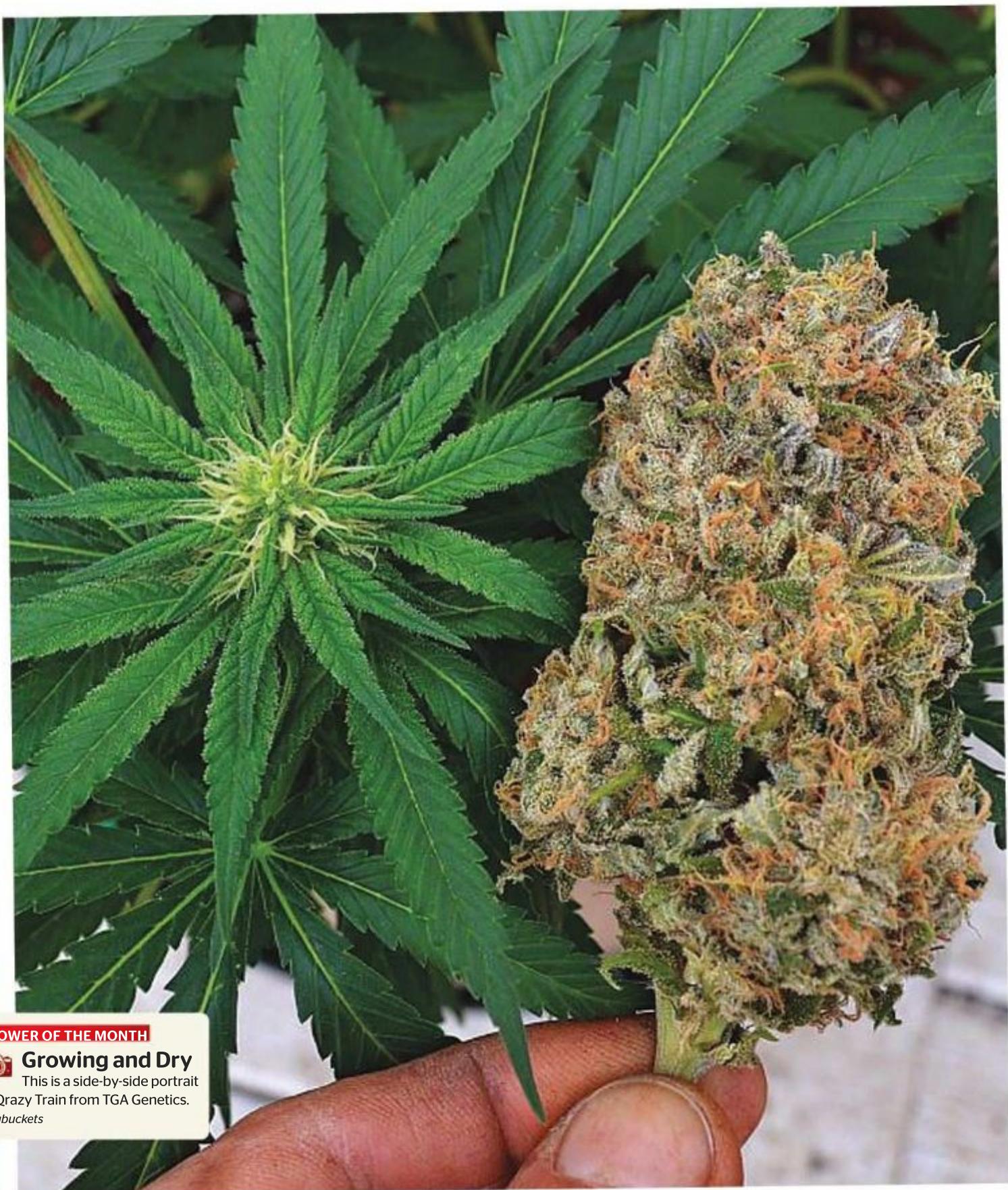




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FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Growing and Dry

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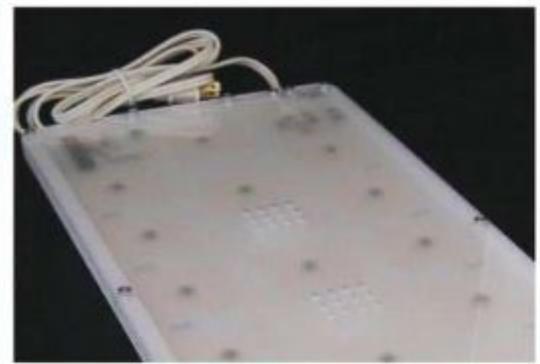
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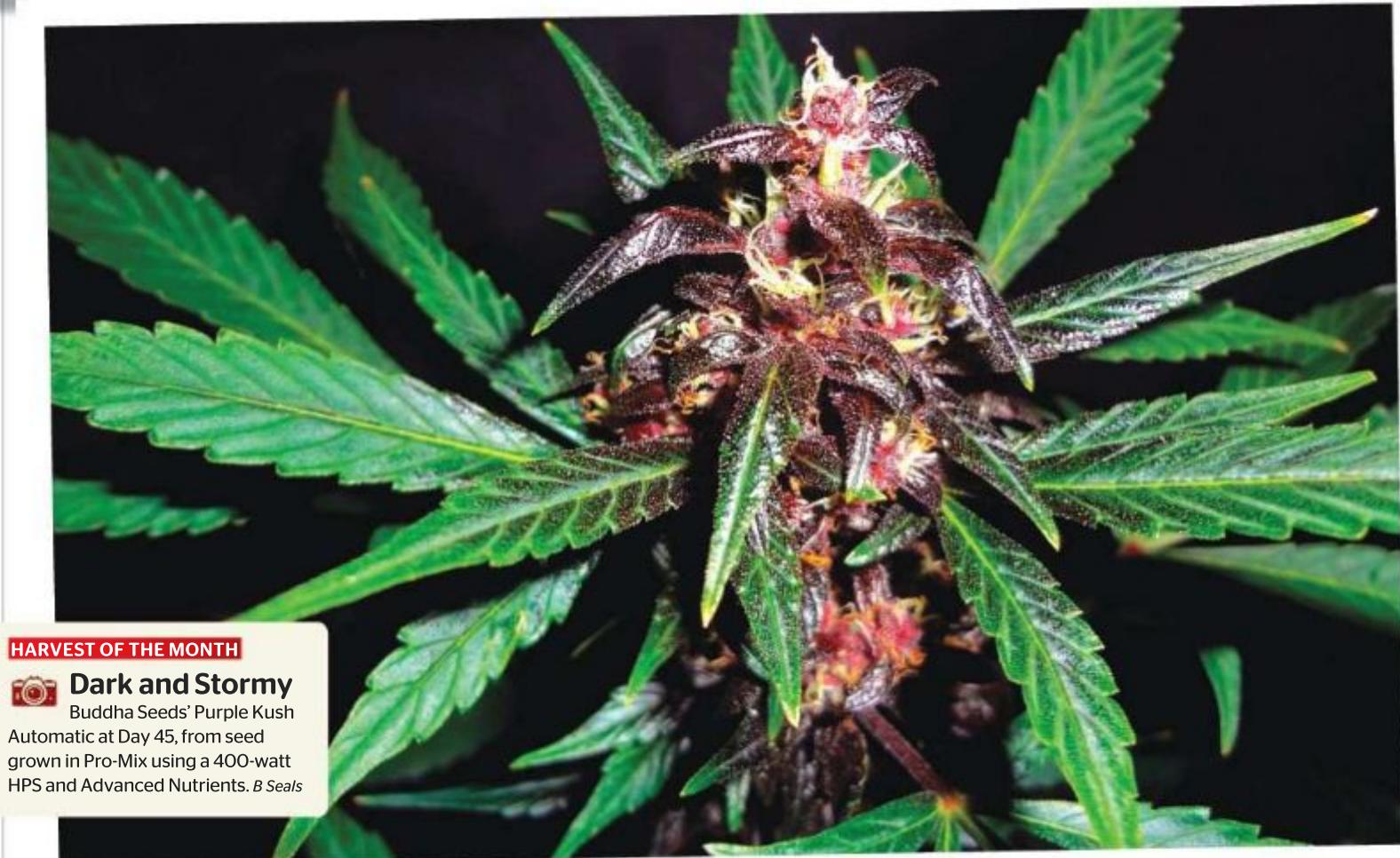
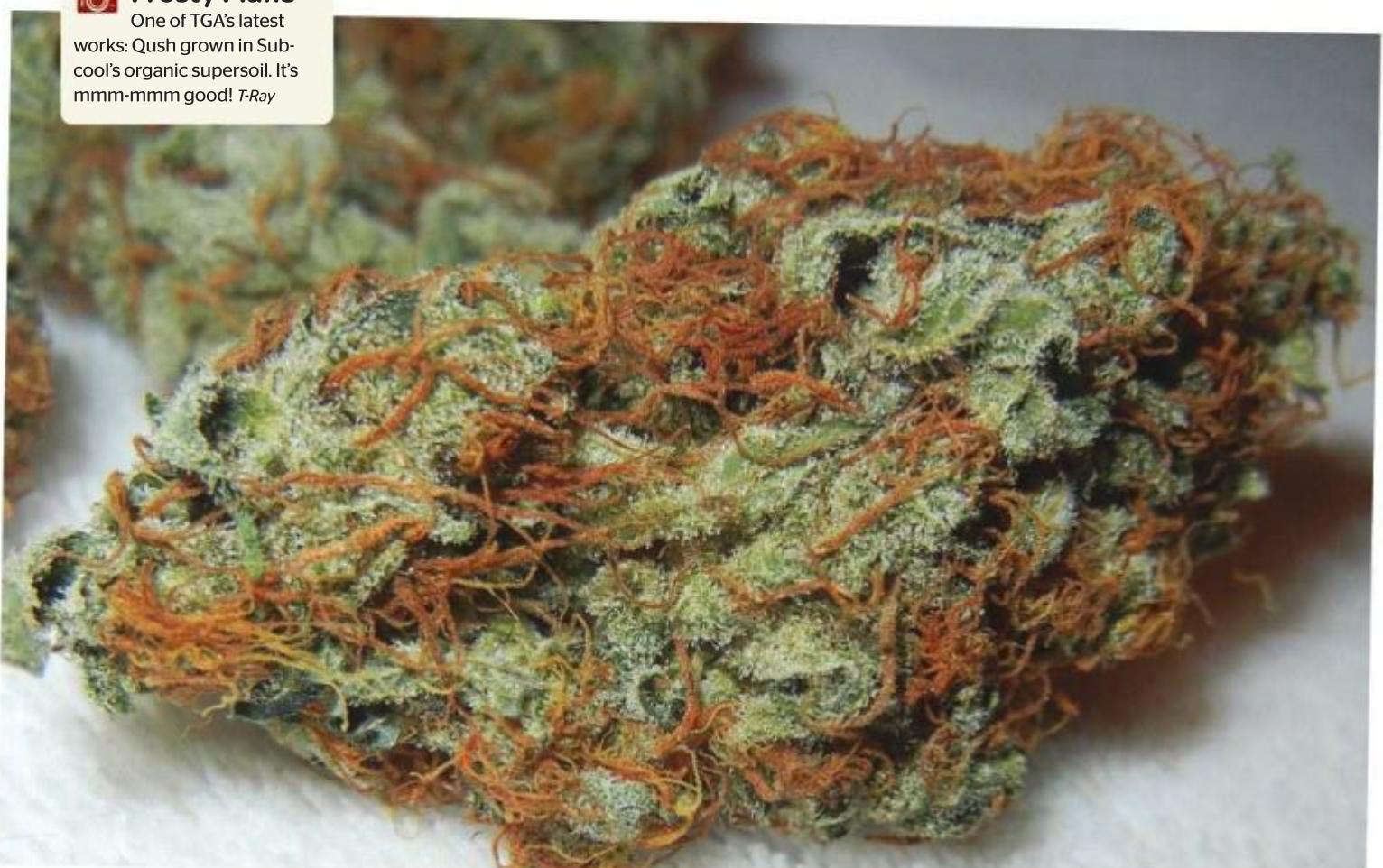
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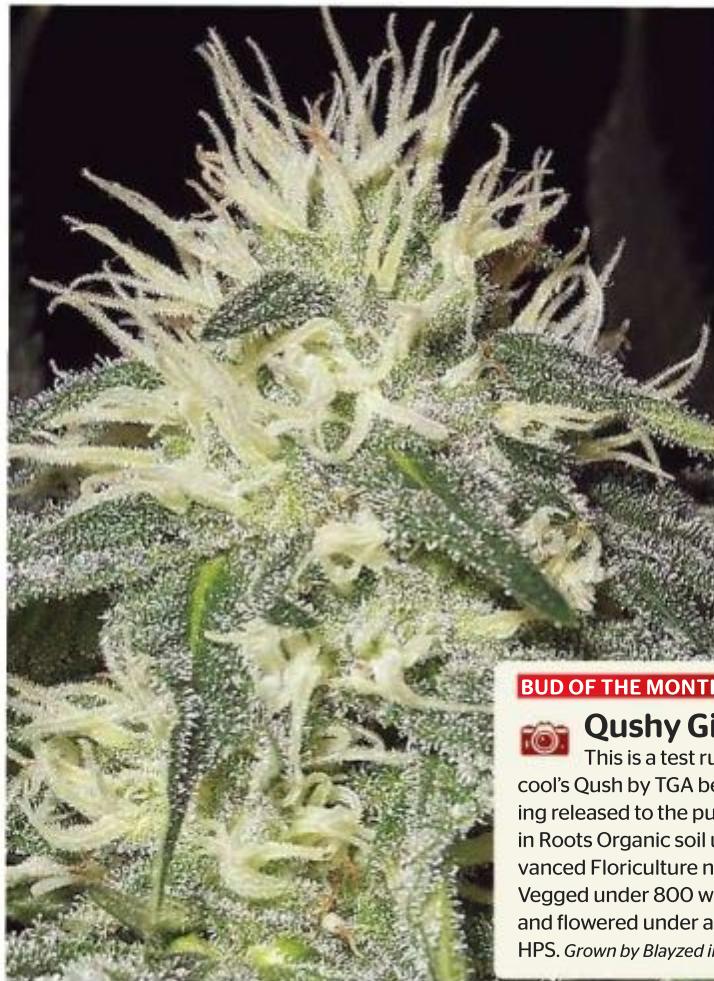
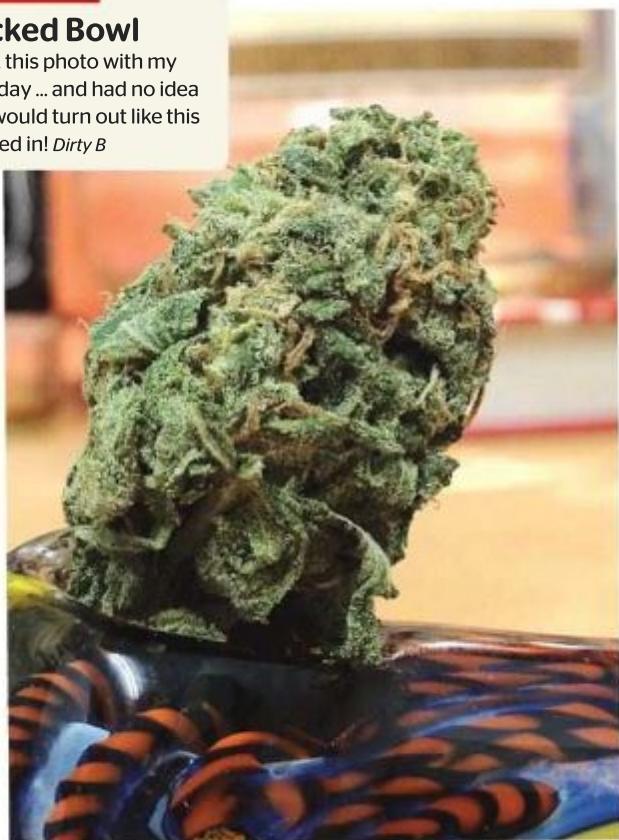
A few shots of some all-organic, Prop. 215-legal nugs for this month's Pix of the Crop. Peace! Cosmic Calyxes



NUG OF THE MONTH

 Packed Bowl

I took this photo with my iPhone one day ... and had no idea the quality would turn out like this after I zoomed in! Dirty B



BUD OF THE MONTH

 Qushy Gig

This is a test run of Sub-cool's Qush by TGA before being released to the public. Grown in Roots Organic soil using Advanced Floriculture nutrients. Vegged under 800 watts of CFL and flowered under a 600-watt HPS. Grown by Blazized in Arizona



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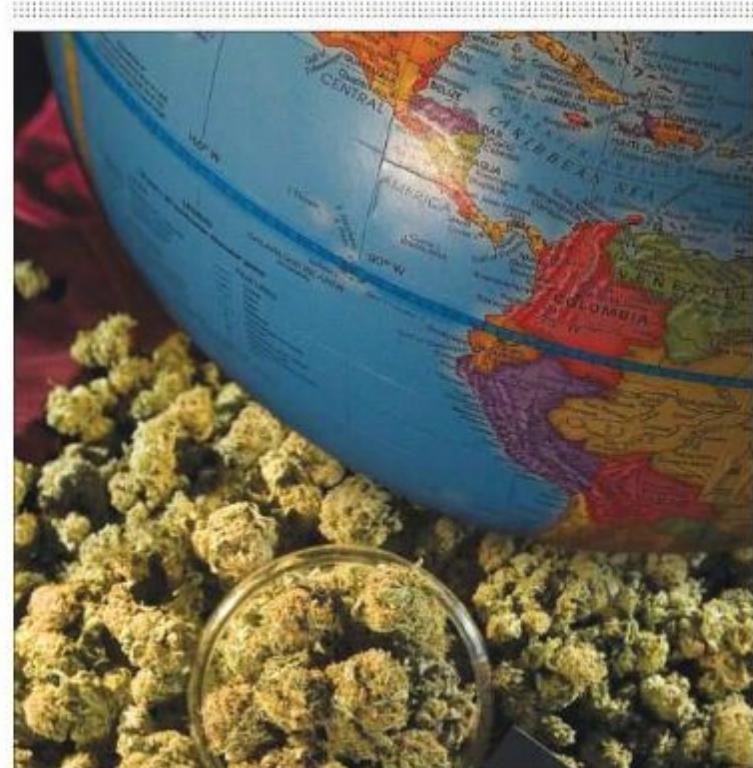
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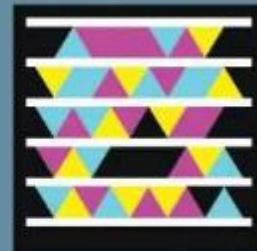
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► The 2012 Global Pot Report

The *High Times* cultivation department examines the grow trends of 2012, including new system styles and popular strains from around the world. From NorCal to Canada to Europe and beyond, we check out the who, what, where and how of the year's best pot.

► Top 10 Strains of the Year

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko announces the marijuana varieties that rocked the cannabis world in 2012. Check out these THC champions, plus get the low-down on aroma, flavor, potency and flowering times.

► Blazin' Arizona

Go inside the burgeoning medical marijuana movement in Arizona and visit a legal "rent-a-tent" cultivation facility, where caregivers grow small batches of cannabis under the supervision of expert cultivators.

► CO₂ Magic

Contributor Greg Green drops some science on how plants use CO₂ and also provides guidance for growers on how they can obtain super-sized plants and maximize their garden's yield.

► War on Harborside Health Center

In our feature interview, Steve DeAngelo, the head of America's largest medical cannabis dispensary and the star of *Weed Wars* on the Discovery Channel, fights back against the federal government's misguided California crackdown.

The image features a black background with a vertical stack of nine identical text elements. Each element consists of the word 'FREEDOM' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, followed by the number '35' in a slightly smaller orange font. The text is centered and stacked vertically. On the left side of the image, there is a detailed, high-resolution photograph of a cannabis plant, showing its green leaves, orange and red stems, and intricate root system. The plant occupies the left third of the frame, partially obscuring the text elements as it extends from the bottom to the top of the image.

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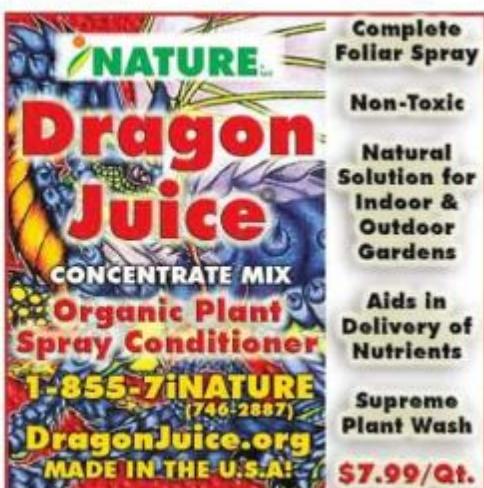
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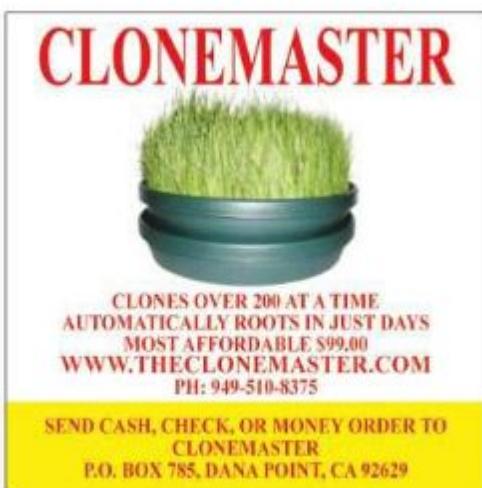
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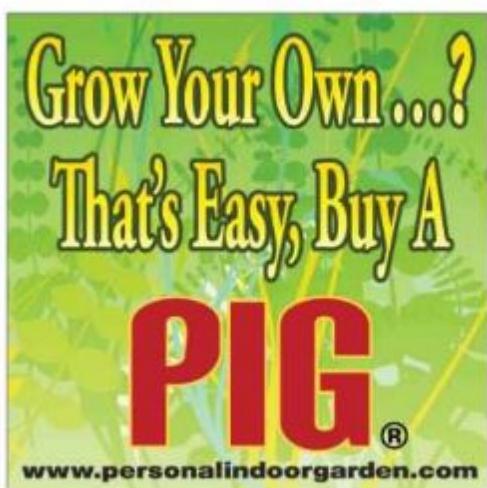


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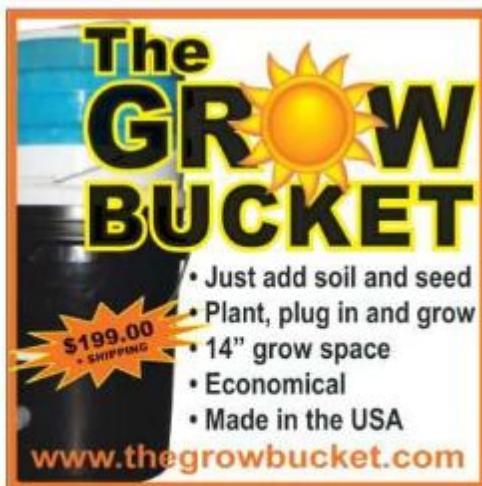
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Characteristics: Saturated

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Characteristics: Large

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Flowering: 9 weeks from seed

Yield: 55 grams + per plant

Characteristics: Huge yields

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Flowering: 9 weeks from seed

Yield: 55 grams + per plant

Characteristics: Bushy plant,

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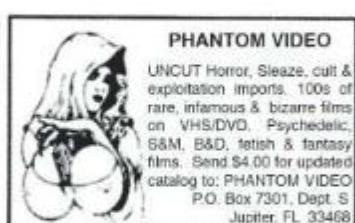
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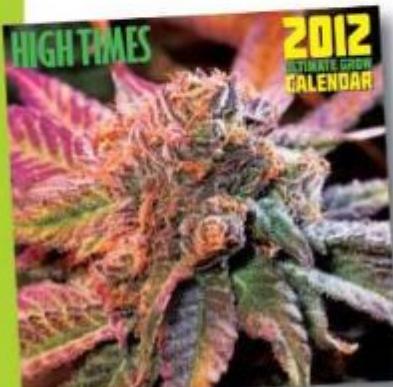
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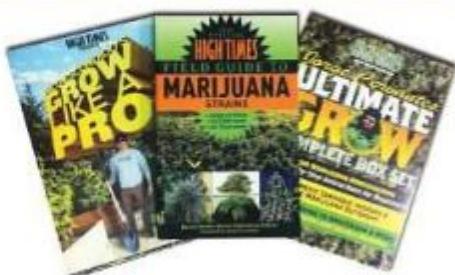
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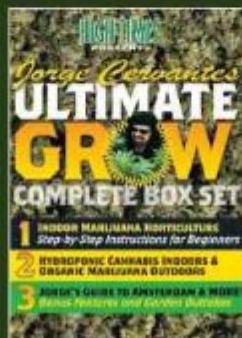
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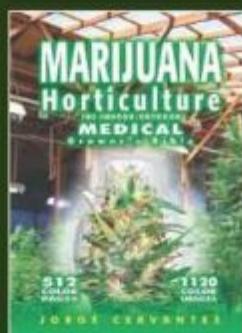
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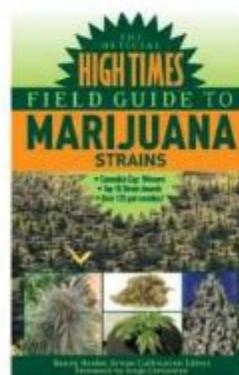
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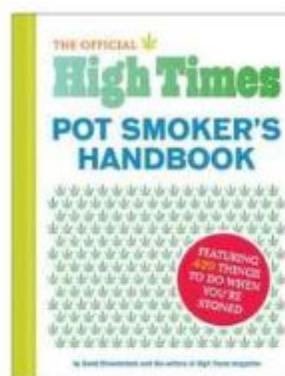
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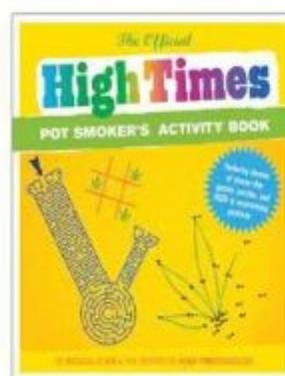
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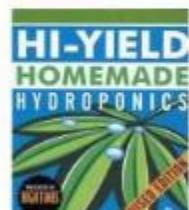
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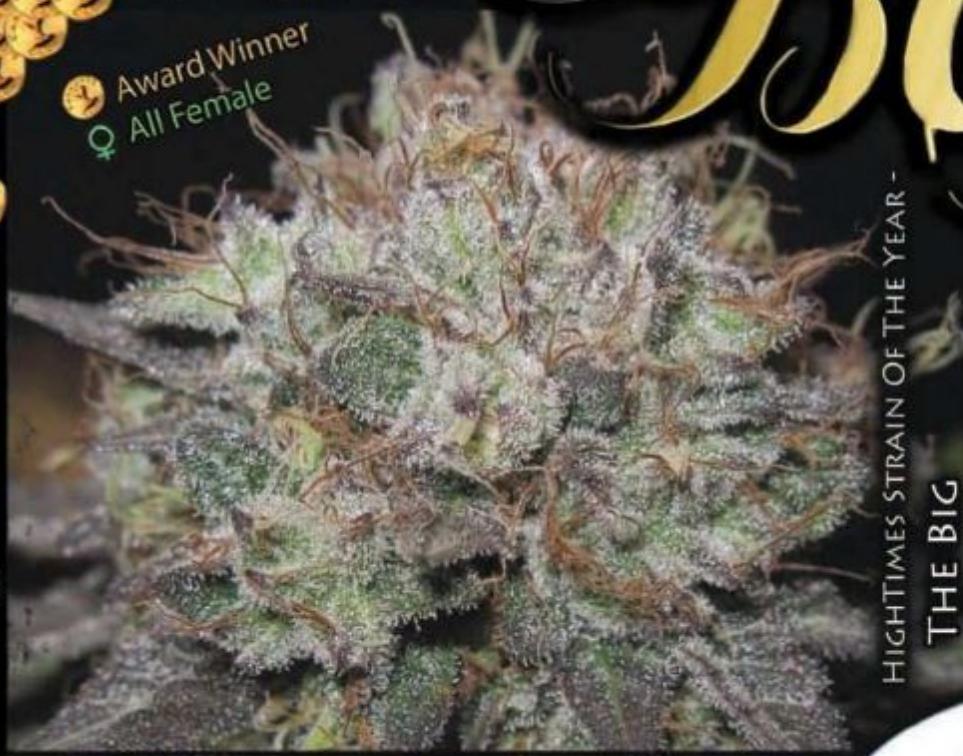
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